

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Rochfortbridge**

Ref: **604**

County: **Westmeath**

Mark: **203**

Category: **C**

Date: **19/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	34
The Built Environment	40	27	27
Landscaping	40	34	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	10	10
Litter Control	40	26	25
Tidiness	20	10	11
Residential Areas	30	25	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	31
General Impression	10	6	7
TOTAL MARK	300	203	202

Overall Developmental Approach:

The adjudicator would like to thank the Committee for the completed application form and map. Unfortunately the map was sketchy and difficult to follow. A 3/5 year plan outlining proposed work on a yearly basis is needed and would help focus the committee both from a financial and development point of view. The committee are to be congratulated on their fund raising endeavours to date but the proposed plan would allow them to ascertain out-goings on a yearly basis. You should contact the relevant agencies, e.g. Leader, regarding grant assistance towards this plan. The new bypass will help relieve the constant stream of traffic passing through the village.

The Built Environment:

The built environment can be very clearly divided into two categories – the new housing estates, Bagnalls pub and surrounding business premises and the more established areas in the town. The new estates on the Kinnegad approach road all look well. The exterior walls which match the houses with railings are well integrated, however grass needs better attention here. The area around Bagnalls is well maintained and has very attractive street lighting, however the buildings while clean lack character and colourful well planted hanging baskets or tubs would brighten up this whole area. There is ample off-street parking at the rear of Bagnalls, however dead sprayed weeds detract from this area and gives an overall impression of untidiness. The Protestant Church is

being refurbished at the moment but no access was available on the day of inspection. As mentioned in last years report St. Josephs School is very well presented which is heartening especially during the middle of school holidays. There are a number of well presented premises in Rochfortbridge, e.g. Lysters but again valuable marks could be gained if some of the more established premises were repainted.

Landscaping:

Most of the comments under this heading made in last years report are still relevant. There are a number of trees planted throughout the village that are maturing nicely and attractive flower features evident. The river at the bridge behind Hair Control was full of rubbish, nettles and weeds. The bench here was broken. This could be a very attractive feature for the town and could be developed further. There are many fine areas throughout Rochfortbridge with potential for development over the coming years.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The abundance of mature trees offers good wildlife habitats as does the river. You should undertake a wildlife survey in conjunction with the school to highlight and raise awareness of the wildlife indigenous to your area. The Committee could seek the expert advise of Enfo in this respect and refer to some of the publications they produce on wildlife conservation (Tel: 01/8883910).

Litter Control:

Additional litterbins seem to have been provided at the Mullingar approach road which is paying dividends as there was no litter present in this area. The lane entrance to the GAA ground contains a lot of litter and the provision of a bin is necessary here. It was disheartening for the adjudicator to see the amounts of unsightly litter strewn in the river on the day of inspection. The main roads were litter free and the area around Bagnalls Pub was also litter free.

Tidiness:

Rochfortbridge give an overall tidy appearance despite the volumes of traffic passing through the town. However there are many unsightly open spaces, e.g. in the lane across the road opposite Bagnalls and at Hair Control.

Residential Areas:

The new housing schemes on the Kinnegad road are all presented well. Tree planting is evident throughout these estates, however many are delicate and need attention or to be replaced. The central area of Brookfield Estate was very overgrown although the houses themselves had made a big effort with beautiful hanging baskets, etc. The very large grassed area at the Derrynagaragh Estate is well maintained and it is appreciated that this takes quite an effort. Some nice mature trees noted here. Seats/benches could be provided as a focal point for the residents in this area. Residential areas on the Galway road are very well maintained.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Galway approach was the best presented of the approach roads. Tree planting evident here and the grass margins were well maintained. Work was evident on all the approach roads but unfortunately not to the same standard as the Galway approach. Grass verges at the housing estates on the Kinnegad road were not trimmed and weeds were evident along the concrete. Hedges were overgrown on the Mullingar approach road even though again there is evidence that effort had been made with the planting of new trees, etc. Painting work in progress on the walls of the GAA park. The grass while cut on the Kinnegad approach was not maintained in a tidy manner

and weeds were evident along the verges. The planting at the Mullingar approach is weedy. The stonewall here is very attractive but needs attention as do trees in this location.

General Impression:

The new buildings and housing estates in Rochfortbridge merge nicely with the older more established parts of the town. There is a constant stream of heavy traffic and the new bypass in 2007 will be welcomed in this regard. There are a number of areas needing attention and the difficulties for a small committee of 12 persons is appreciated. The committee should encourage the cooperation of the newer estates and business. Great strides could be made if you can harness all this new energy as Rochfortbridge has the potential to do very well in the competition

Second Round Adjudication: