

# Tidy Towns Competition 2006

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Rathvilly** Ref: **45**  
County: **Carlow** Mark: **267**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **14/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	43
The Built Environment	50	36
Landscaping	50	39
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	22
Litter Control	50	34
Waste Minimisation	20	4
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	35
General Impression	10	9
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>267</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Rathvilly is welcome to the 2006 National Tidy Towns competition. Thank you for your submission with your excellent three-year plan to 2008. We wish you well in its implementation. It was a pity to see that one of your Gold Medal signs has been vandalized; hopefully this will be reinstated in the short-term future. Rathvilly is growing fast and the challenge for the community will be to retain the high standard of presentation while at the same time meeting the challenges presented by growth.

### **The Built Environment:**

The majority of buildings were presented to a high standard; well done. We note that there is still a few beer signs in existence hopefully these dated signs will disappear before not too long. Encourage the proprietor of Halligan Bros premises to replace the solid iron roller shutter with the open mesh type that allows a view of the window display when in use, as these have a nicer effect on the streetscape. The Phoenix Centre and the church were beautifully presented, as was the school and the post office. Well done on a fine overall presentation.

### **Landscaping:**

Your small park in the village centre continues to impress and has become a landmark feature. Well done on flowerbeds and other landscaped areas around the village, these are being nicely maintained and add a welcome splash of colour; container plants look well also. We note your intention to replant the badly positioned trees on the Slaney banks. Filling the gaps in the hedgerow will provide additional wildlife habitat also, and is an excellent initiative.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The banks of the river were beautifully presented and are an excellent amenity for your growing community. Your walled graveyard in the village centre also enjoyed a standard of excellence in presentation and the path through the yew trees inside the beautifully painted gates adds an extra dimension to the centre of your lovely village. It's a good idea to leave some ivy on walls to provide nesting areas for birds. Well done also in the positioning of bird feeders in the national school, no doubt the children enjoy this. The meadow area between the Church of Ireland chapel and Michael Collins Park is valuable for wildlife. Good luck with your plan to erect barn owl and back nesting boxes and to develop a wildlife walk to St. Patrick's Well.

#### **Litter Control:**

Your litter activities are paying dividends as the village was quite busy during adjudication, but at the same time was litter free. Well done on the removal and replacement of damaged bins together with the regular cleaning of existing ones.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

The recycling bins have already been noted and marks have been awarded here. There are a number of activities you could engage to minimise waste as opposed to just recycling. It would be a good idea to involve local businesses, the farming community, and the school, as well as residents in waste minimisation initiatives.

#### **Tidiness:**

The recycling point located within the area of the Phoenix Centre is well positioned, was being well used, and is being maintained in a tidy manner; well done. Unsightly weeds were not a problem and your plan to make compost bins is a good idea.

#### **Residential Areas:**

Both Fr. Patrick's Park and Fr. Cullen Park were presented to a high standard and were admired. The stone houses on Phelan Street continue to impress as in previous years and exhibited wonderful flower displays. Hopefully new housing developments in the village will bring about new hands on board for the Tidy Towns initiative. We wish you well in assimilating new residence in the life of the community.

#### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Grass verges along approach roads and within the village were neatly presented for adjudication and looked well. Stonewalls were attractively presented also. Signs for the village were clean, legible, and had good visibility; well done. We wish you well with Carlow County Council to increase pedestrian and traffic safety at the bridge.

#### **General Impression:**

Rathvilly is a good performer in the Tidy Towns Competition and has been most successful in maintaining a high standard for as long as this adjudicator can remember visiting. Your plan is excellent and we wish you well regarding the future use and role of St. Patrick's Hall and on the renovations of the Phoenix Centre