

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ratheniska** Ref: **222**
County: **Laois** Mark: **212**
Category: **A** Date(s): **28/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	28
Landscaping	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	19
Litter Control	50	31
Waste Minimisation	20	0
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	212

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Ratheniska to the 2006 Tidy Towns Competition. Ratheniska is an attractive village located in beautiful rural countryside. You have a large committee of 15 people and there is an obvious sense here of community pride and co-operation. It is noted that you are using the Tidy Towns concept as a way of further strengthening your community and this is admirable. The adjudicator notes that a Tidy Towns Work Programme or Plan for Ratheniska was not submitted with the entry documentation. All towns and villages are required to have a simple straight forward 3 Year Tidy Towns Plan for their area. This Plan is prepared by your Committee in consultation with the appropriate local organisations. It should be no more than seven to ten pages long. The purpose of the Plan is to guide the work of your Tidy Towns Committee and others for Ratheniska over the short to medium term. Your Plan should detail year by year the work that you intend to do each year. It is recommended that you do not have too many objectives each year – perhaps 4/5 key projects.

The Built Environment:

The presentation of the GAA grounds has been substantially improved by the excellent tarmacadamming of the surrounding area. The premises itself was presented in a neat and tidy fashion. The nearby Ratheniska School also impressed and the only point that detracted from an excellent presentation here was some weed growth at the road boundary wall. The Pump feature near the school is an interesting reminder of earlier times in Ratheniska. The plant in the bucket looked rather dried up and may have needed watering. The Church and Graveyard was beautifully presented and the careful manner in which the grass in the Graveyard had been recently cut was noted.

Landscaping:

The landscaping at the Shrine in the car park looked very fresh and well maintained as did the paintwork. At

the school excellent landscaping was a feature and the interesting sculpture feature caught the eye. The flower tubs around the village added extra colour here and there. The landscaping at the Church was impressive again this year.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The planting of Rowan Trees to help in the feeding of wildlife is commended. The Information Panel on the May 2003 wildlife survey was really interesting and it is surprising that so many bird species were recorded in the Ratheniska area. The future plans for the planting of native trees at the school is noted and we look forward to seeing the results of this proposal in 2007.

Litter Control:

Litter control on adjudication day was quite good and your regular clean-ups are being effective. Congratulations to the whole community for being so litter aware.

Waste Minimisation:

This is a new category in the Tidy Towns Competition introduced in 2006. The purpose of this new category is to encourage Tidy Towns Committees and the community that they support to get involved in projects that will reduce waste and encourage recycling. Marks can be gained by Ratheniska for the promotion of best practice. This can include community guidance on methods of reducing waste, segregating litter during clean up events. You might look at the possibilities in this regard for 2007.

Tidiness:

Ratheniska on adjudication day was extremely tidy again this year. In a small village like this even the smallest untidy area can have a negative visual impact and you seem to have avoided these problems. Well done!

Residential Areas:

Private houses were neatly presented and good landscaping was a feature of most properties.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Do remember that cut grass should be removed from approach roads on the day that it is cut. On the road from the Togher uncut grass was noted along the verge and this can look quite untidy. On the approach past the GAA property the verges were excellently presented but some of the overhanging brambles needed to be trimmed. The Dysart Enos approach road needs some work as verges and banks were quite rough.

General Impression:

Congratulations to your community on such a good approach to Tidy Towns and the adjudicator wishes you well with your 2007 plans.