

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Rhode** Ref: **286**
County: **Offaly** Mark: **238**
Category: **B** Date(s): **18/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	34
The Built Environment	50	35
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	17
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	4
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	33
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	238

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the completed application form and sketch map of the village and its environs this was very helpful to this adjudicator on a very first visit to the pleasant village of Rhode.
The application is under the auspices of Rhode Parish Enterprises, which has an impressive track record. The Committee at 20 is rather large for Tidy Towns but obviously it is effective and indeed it seems to have mobilised all of the community to get involved in putting Rhode to forefront of the Competition. Unfortunately I had not recourse to the original plan mentioned in last years report and relied solely on the application as submitted.
The interaction with Offaly County Council and Leader was noted.

The Built Environment:

The Rhode Enterprise Centre, which houses a Citizens Advice Bureau, is an excellent Community Initiative and indeed will be submitted for consideration under the Architectural Special Awards.
The Village has benefited from the provision of new footpaths for as well as being of practical benefit they add to the overall streetscape.
There are number of well preserved private dwellings in the core area and on the outskirts including an excellently maintained period house opposite the well kept GAA Grounds.
Memories of Micheal O Hehir and the Iron Man from Rhode Paddy McCormack.
The main commercial premises all mentioned in the application form were in good condition on a relaxed Sunday afternoon.
The National School was in pristine condition as indeed was the Church and credit to those responsible for they're up keep.
Note that the tubs in the School need to be replanted.

Landscaping:

The rest garden on the Daingean road is a big undertaking for such a small community. It is noted that you intend to populate it with either tubs or planters and indeed that is necessary as it is quite bare at the moment.

The suggestion to plant creepers to complement the tubs and planters is very good idea.

It might be beneficial if you could seek advice from the Horticultural Section of Offaly County Council to see how the potential of this amenity can be exploited to its best advantage.

In slight negative as it is on a bend the parking arrangements need to be reviewed.

There were a number of bedding arrangements that are in full bloom and extremely colourful it must be all the Offaly peat.

Individual gardens were also in full colour on a pleasant early June afternoon and evening.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Last years adjudicator made note of the wonderful collection of old established beeches and copper beeches that give the village seclusion.

No doubt these are a haven for birds and other wildlife species.

There was no reference to any new project in this category which is more the pity as getting school children involved brings enthusiasm to any idea.

Maybe you should consider a new project for next year and get the School Principle involved.

Litter Control:

There was very little litter to be seen, a few stray wrappers and plastic bottles here and there, this was good to report considering it was a weekend.

The committee deserves the plaudits for promoting the message of good litter control amongst all sectors of the community.

The Recycling area near the school was reasonably tidy and it behoves every one to make sure that it continues that way.

Some bins were overflowing allowances have to be made as it was a weekend.

Waste Minimisation:

There is no input under this section, which is pity as literature from Race Against Waste was forwarded with the original application form.

This outlined activities that could be done to promote best waste management practice.

It is hoped that progressive committees such as what you have in Rhode will embrace this category in the future years of the Competition.

It can get your village extra marks as well as promoting its message by practical action.

Tidiness:

There was some weed growth evident at kerbsides in two estates and in the village proper.

This may be because the immediate weather was very conducive to quick growth.

The new sub groups set up in each estate will hopefully take responsibility for general tidiness within their respective areas.

Residential Areas:

Priory Lawn ,an old established area,was well maintained maybe the green area could benefit from the addition of one or two appropriate stone beds.

The Clonin Estate was in excellent condition with a very attractive stone identification sign.

The Luarencestown Estate was also in good condition, with some very well thought out cottage type gardens.

One or two boundary walls need to be re painted or dashed.

The newer Woodville Manor and the one on the Daingean Road were well maintained and indeed relatively matured for such new developments.

Hillview was good considering its size but here there were a few back areas that need to tidied up.

I would concur with lthe advice of last year's adjudicator to desist from the practice of burning verges with strong weed killer it actually can make the verges more untidy looking.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

All entrances were quite good particularly from Portarlinton, which has some nice mature trees including attractive variegated poplars.
The entrance from Rochford Bridge was enhanced by the excellent rest area, and the link road off it had a number of attractive new residences including an exquisite stone cottage which had a for sale sign up.
The aforementioned housing estates, with new footpaths, also added to the attractiveness of this entrance.
The Edenderry entrance was acceptable maybe it did not have the appeal of the others but it was maintained well.

General Impression:

This was a very pleasant first experience for this adjudicator and hopefully I will return in the near future.
It is stating the obvious when I say there is an immense sense of pride of place within the community of Rhode.

Everything isn't totally perfect but issues are addressed not left to linger.
Your endeavours and achievements to date would put many larger villages and towns in the shade and it shows that the spirit of voluntarism is still strong among our rural people.
Long may it continue in Rhode and Offaly.