

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

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

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	45
The Built Environment	50	36
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	34
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	267

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to the 2007 Tidy towns competition. Rathvilly is a beautiful village with a good pedigree and a worthy winner of medals. You have a committee of nine with voluntary help. Well done on your business sponsorships and your use of different media. We hope that contact has been kept with the schools. Well done also on your selection to represent Co Carlow in the 'Pride of Place' competition. We were grateful for your good clear map which shows clearly where things are and is related to your 3 year action plan of which this is the second year.

The Built Environment:

The following projects have been done well from the action plan and were admired. Namely Phelan's stone cottages, the repairs to the roof and painting of the Phoenix centre. Also the painting and cleaning of the building opposite this, together with Lawlor's pub, and the Credit Union next door to the Mace shop were also well presented. We noted also that the derelict St. Patrick's Hall has not been demolished and a new building planned. The village centre is very well presented but signs of neglect are evident in the churchyard with widespread weed growth. There is one garage canopy on the Dublin road which has been damaged. The adjudicator was impressed with the old station with its original buildings and gates and thinks they have potential for a good quality development.

Street furniture in places needs repair or replacement in many places. Signage in many places is excessive and needs rationalising and upgrading.

Landscaping:

The area around the front of the church including the Kevin Barry memorial has been done and now looks very well. The new landscaping in the Slaney side estate with the fine 'five Arched' bridge and mill with the

wheel in the background is of a very high standard.

The roundabout at the east end of the town is attractive but native hedgerows should be planted as suggested along all nearby concrete and post and wire fences. Work should be undertaken to restore or replace planting in the churchyard.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

There is a superb natural amenity in the Slaney River with the bridge and mill. Well done on reserving the grassed area for wildlife. Perhaps the development of a controlled river sidewalk would be an option. We note also the wildlife areas outside the Church of Ireland and also in the school campus. There is a good 'flora and fauna' sign near the bridge.

Litter Control:

There is a bring bank against the wall outside the Phoenix centre which was clean on the day of the inspection. The area at the back of the Catholic churchyard has a compost heap and also contains bags of miscellaneous rubbish.

Waste Minimisation:

There is not much evidence of promotion of this area in the village or getting schools involved or working with local agencies and business. To perform to a high standard under this heading it is necessary to encourage all sectors of the community to survey the amount of waste generated by themselves and to formulate strategies to minimise the amount produced, as opposed to simply collecting waste for recycling. We anticipate a performance of excellence under this heading in the years to come given your track record to date in every other respect. The race against waste booklet included in this year's Tidy Towns pack contains a number of good ideas on this.

Tidiness:

There are still unsightly overhead wires in the town centre and older estates. The bring bank does not appear to be signed. Signs generally are in need of maintenance and rationalisation. Traffic management is reasonable. Weeds generally are absent. Otherwise the general effect is one of a cared for environment.

Residential Areas:

The development of the Slaney side estate is excellent with beautifully finished small scale houses of single and two storeys. Planting and houses were excellent and lighting was attractive. All other housing areas were of good quality and gardens, boundary walls and planting in the public spaces were all well maintained. The exception was that to the mouth of the parochial house which could have been better.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

All approach roads were attractive, well maintained, verdant and good for wildlife habitation.

There is a lovely old station as mentioned before, which is suitable for development. There is also an old railway bridge adjacent to the river crossing which should also be highlighted and repaired as should the surrounding fences which are very noticeable. It is an important area with its location next to the river bridge. Station road and lane opposite Station road are both very attractive thoroughfares with lovely gates and new fencing, all well finished.

General Impression:

The village is very attractive with the sound of lawnmowers and running water nearby. It is a well integrated small scale town which justifiably has achieved awards. Perhaps now it needs a new approach with different developments of existing facilities.