

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Rathangan** Ref: **383**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **266**
Category: **C** Date(s): **17/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	45
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	29
Litter Control	50	29
Waste Minimisation	20	11
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	266

Overall Development Approach:

Rathangan is welcome to the 2007 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission. We wish you well in the achievement of your Tidy Towns' objectives and congratulate you on achievements to date in this and other competitions, well done. It is good to note that you work in conjunction with other groups and agencies and that you work so closely with the schools.

The Built Environment:

Rathangan is blessed with handsome period houses some of which still retain their traditional features. It is good to note that Drummond's Mill has been sold for development, well done on your negotiations with the developer to ensure the objectives for the town are met. The monitoring of major planning applications is a proactive approach. The resurfaced avenue at the Church of Ireland together with improvements to the door are acknowledged. Now that you are performing at a higher level in the competition, it would be appropriate to have a word with retailers regarding the use of security shutters for windows; ideally these should be see through and internal lighting should be used at night, which will encourage window-shopping and enhance the streetscape, the solid shutters have a deadening effect outside business hours. You might also continue to encourage shop owners to remove signs positioned above fascia level signs.

Landscaping:

On the day of adjudication the roundabout on the Edenderry Road was quite weedy, this should be incorporated into your landscaping plan. Silver birch trees along the street in the centre of the town are handsome and must look well in winter. The overall standard under this heading is good with landscaping throughout the town and at Newtown. The church car park, which at the time of adjudication was large and

bare, would benefit from landscaping also. Congratulations to the girls' school for their work in relation to container plants at the church and the Maura Lavery flowerbed. The boys' school are to be commended also for their work on their own gardens and the BM Croker flowerbed. The herb bed at the canal and the bed at the bottom of the town bridge, which is the responsibility of the post-primary school students is an excellent initiative. Your winter and spring planting in Tannery Park is appreciated. Perhaps we could have the recording of bird song at some stage in the future.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

It is good to note your awareness of wildlife habitats both within the village and also its environs along the canal, river, the bog, wood and nature lanes; this no doubt will play an important role in the protection of threatened habitats. Your work on Killinthomas Wood sounds promising particularly the creation of new walkways and we look forward to a similar proactive approach in relation to the Slate River project.

Litter Control:

The overall standard of litter control in Rathangan for adjudication was excellent. We note from your submission that approximately 70 litter pickers have been distributed over the last few years plus additional to schools in order to have everyone involved in litter control. Well done on your participation in National Spring Clean and the relatively large number of people involved. It is good to note that the litter is segregated for recycling purposes. Well done also to Kildare County Council for the installation of four new litter bins along the main street. Your liaison both Kildare County Council and with the management of Tougher's is acknowledged.

Waste Minimisation:

Congratulations are due on the special award achieved by Rathangan for being only .1% behind the overall winner in the county in 2005 and well done on the seminar for small businesses and waste management together with the distribution of a booklet. Your recycling containers are noted. It is good to note your awareness of the Civic Amenity Centre in Edenderry for all household waste. Your replanting policy when managing flowerbeds is interesting and of course useful, not to mention the arrangement with the Bog of Allen Nature Centre who sell your unwanted plants. These and other initiatives are acknowledged together with your visits to business interests regarding waste generated by them. Finally, your composting initiative particularly those involving the schools is most welcome and the open compost heap is an excellent idea. Your Bring Bins are acknowledged.

Tidiness:

The town itself particularly the centre was tidy. A number of sites are in urgent need of development or at a minimum screening to their roadside boundary. Of particular note under this heading is the N Conlan & Son yards. A number of derelict premises are in evidence. No doubt given your proactive approach in every other respect the committee will be successful in dealing with this. We note that you have approached Kildare County Council regarding derelict premises.

Residential Areas:

Congratulations are due on the special award achieved by Rathangan for being only .1% behind the overall winner in the county in 2005 and well done on the seminar for small businesses and waste management together with the distribution of a booklet. Your recycling containers are noted. It is good to note your awareness of the Civic Amenity Centre in Edenderry for all household waste. Your replanting policy when managing flowerbeds is interesting and of course useful, not to mention the arrangement with the Bog of Allen Nature Centre who sell your unwanted plants. These and other initiatives are acknowledged together with your visits to business interests regarding waste generated by them. Finally, your composting initiative particularly those involving the schools is most welcome and the open compost heap is an excellent idea. Your Bring Bins are acknowledged.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The standard under this heading is quite mixed. Some stretches of road and footpath are good whilst others need additional work. Street furniture is well presented and we note the installation of four new benches in the town. Well done on the construction of a new pedestrian crossing and on the designation of car parking spaces. Your new litter bins have been noted also. We wish you every success in your future work with Kildare County Council and in having your plans under this heading implemented over the next few years.

General Impression:

Rathangan is a handsome town with a valuable social, cultural and amenity heritage. As you progress in the competition it will be difficult to earn additional marks each year. The task ahead will be to maintain what you've achieved to date while at the same time improving your performance. Good luck for the future.