

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Rhode** Ref: **286**
County: **Offaly** Mark: **240**
Category: **B** Date(s): **28/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	35
Landscaping	50	35
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	240

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your completed entry form and map. The village of Rhode is undergoing a lot of development at present with its village centre being rebuilt. There seem to be good working partnerships with leader and the county council. Keep up the work with developers regarding derelict buildings. It would be good to see an updated plan and report on progress with next years application.

The Built Environment:

There is a lot of construction work underway in Rhode and it will be interesting to see how the village centre looks once its complete.

Painting the old hall is a good way to pretty up an old building. Might need to be done again as the paintings are fading.

Very neat properties along Edenderry Road, not bright and colourful but neat and tidy

Some very nice private residences throughout, especially the one selling duck and hen eggs and another beautiful white washed house.

Couple of well presented private residences near the school, and couple of properties opposite each other with quite neglected frontages which are quite noticeable.

The school itself is a very fine building, beautifully painted in cream and terracotta – with an abundance of flowers and half barrel displays - wonder if has green flag ? Pole there no flag maybe cos closed

Entrance to gaa cut stone very nice, enhances this approach to town
Some buildings that could be improved opposite the new building are the butcher and take away and home entertainment. The modern plastic signs would look better with something more traditional, if something could be done about them, and daybreak with its abundance of signs as well. Signs go very high up over daybreak which makes it look untidy.

The Community centre is a marvellous development and a credit to all involved

The village and o'tooles and the other pub with the blue front are all well presented. The O Tooles have a big car park, which is unmarked, but with foliage at the hback gives some interest. Is delineated from footpath only because the path is older and broken up whilst car park tarmac area is new and clean and smooth. There are opportunities for enhancing with planters and markings.

Quite neat shopfronts there – 3 together, hairdressers, pharmacy and beauty – quite bright and some effort made there. Neat organised car park in front

Church very neat and tidy and well maintained and looking well. Lovely bell.

Across from it, parochial house, and new community centre to front with the gorgeous old stone pillars is a marvellous amenity for the town.
Marvellous entrance and plantings, with childrens play area down back. They're putting in a lift at back for disabled access into computer room to do courses. Fas already using for courses. Crèche as well in part of original building which was very long building, was coming up to road. Had to demolish some but saved stone and moved the gateposts.

Old residential area road surface really needs redoing as is broken up, no markings. Pedestrian way all in front, good. Are there plans to redo the path outside community centre with its unsealed edge

Landscaping:

Looks like there was some maintained planting on the right as come in from Edenderry, just at end of path and lighted area but its not maintained anymore, its totally overgrown and that is a lovely opportunity to put a sign – maybe double sided sign – welcome to rhode and thank you for visiting rhode or something, like one that people see on exit and entering. Lovely shrubs with blue berries good for bird food. This area should be tended to and improved. All grass on verges along here to be cut as its a bit messy. Kerbing looks like it was cleared almost this far and still bit of work to do. Path is good

Opposite the school where there is the rhode sign – should this sign not be before the national school and before the village? Or if staying where it is, it could be tidied up and made into a feature.

Rest area is lovely feature on rochfortbridge side well maintained, with nice beds, although the bench needs some attention. An information board about town would be good to give visitor info.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Please provide more information on what's involved in 'projects at school'
Are there plans to do anything to enhance the canal area? This is a fortunate asset to have from a wildlife and natural amenities point of view. There is a beautiful old bridge and waterside but not clear if you can go down, bring car down, are they going to make anything out of that? And the old buildings there to be renovated? Some landscaping and nature panels could be developed as project involving the local schools.

Patch of grass opposite school is in front of derelict building and depending on owners and what's happening with it, would be great to sow with wildflowers and incorporate the sign, maybe done as school project

Litter Control:

There was unfortunately quite a lot of litter around at time of visit. Entry states there are daily collections with school children. What happens when school is closed for the holidays? Difficult to judge wider litter management strategies as no further info provided on this. Is there a litter management plan, such as rotating litter pick up teams, awareness letters to householders, visits from the litter warden? Businesses look like they are taking responsibility for outside premises as areas in front of shops and pubs all clean.

Waste Minimisation:

Recycling bins are in good condition.

Old tyres used for planting as well in front of school which is a good example of reusing materials

Is the school a Green School? There are many ways to gain points in this section. Refer to the Race Against Waste guide and talk to the local Environmental Education Officer about holding an info session for the community. Consider segregating materials collected in litter picks, and composting green waste.

Tidiness:

Wide tarmac area in front of school should probably have markings car parking eg. Delineate a disabled parking spot, space for buses, etc. if there is more parking control needed.

Paintings on old hall of local landmarks very nice

Derelict building near the water feature and efforts made to tidy it up by painting boarded up windows and doors- good effort!

Building work at junction of village centre so when that's finished will look better – on day of visiting there was large machinery adjusting electric cables causing problems of traffic so sure the committee looks forward to that being completed (although then the other corner works will probably start as planning permission sign up for knocking and building apartments there)

Layby on left, coming from water feature towards village, could be exploited to tidy it up and further enhance entrance to town. With info board to entice people to stop. Layby and easy to pull in after they've seen water feature – a layby may entice to stop, especially if village centre is busy people not as inclined to stop there.

Street scape neat enough – overheads in parallel

Bus stop on edenderry approach is bent over, and sign beside needs painting. Could something be done to tidy up and maybe more permanent shelter?

Path across from old community hall needs to be cleared of weeds

To the side of old hall, lots of foliage has been cut down – maybe this could be a site for community composting in the future? Seems like its used to dump green waste at the moment. Some pallets or fencing as dividers to enclose this waste would improve appearance, depending on intended use for this area.

Car park across from village pub – which has very nice hanging baskets and signage and nicely painted and offaly supporting signs. Not marked, no colour, no planters and something to delineate the car park from path in front and proper entrance and exit marked for cars for better management at busy times. At time of visit quiet, so no problem, but perhaps at busy times it is. Few bits of litter

Overheads all done very straight. Pavement – looks like tarmac over original path -

Residential Areas:

New one, Woodville Manor, looks great, fine, needs a sign up to say its name. Up from that, in Laurence town there are few walls and pillars and posts need fixing and painting, and sign should be replaced if possible as it is faded. Other residential areas acceptable, looking fine

Opposite priory lane estate, there is a parking area which could take some more tubs for colour. Has the wooden fence been treated? Should be treated or painted to enhance the look and extend longevity

Residential area with newish cobble lock and water pump – some of the wall a bit broken – could do with repair. Some colour around water pump would be good

There is smart frontage to one of the newer housing developments with railings and trees in front, quite nice – path outside that just stops.(outside hillview) but planning permission on other derelict building says it will incorporate pedestrian crossing so that should improve pedestrian routes.

The committees in all estates should continue to work for the betterment of their local area. With support of the community, things will continue to improve.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The rest area on the approach from Rochfortbridge is pleasant, at the 1km sign for Rhode. There is an opportunity missed at all approaches to have nice welcome signs. A few of the verges could be tidied up but overall acceptable. Its quite a long approach to town, from Portarlinton. Past the school and old hall, the long tree lined approach to actual village centre is beautiful.

Good footpath along approach from Edenderry, and tidy. Good path also out past the school, which is good for pedestrians. Some kerbing could be neater and its a bit broken up in places.

Approach from daingean side acceptable, no litter, verges tidy, water feature is lovely with benches – more planting around that would be good as it is bare at present. Not clear if parking in front is ok. Coming out of town, theres a hardshoulder but is that ok to pull over and park up? Road markings to indicate for safety would be good.

General Impression:

There is a lot of construction work and development taking place in Rhode. It is great for local people that new energy is coming to the village. However, care must be taken that developments are sensitive and appropriate for this location.

Overall for Rhode, can see that there is great effort and improvements have been made but that there's a long way to go. Good luck to all and keep up the good work.