

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Rathmullen** Ref: **1406**
County: **Sligo** Mark: **187**
Category: **A** Date(s): **12/08/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	23
Landscaping	50	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	25
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	20
General Impression	10	5
TOTAL MARK	400	187

Overall Development Approach:

Rathmullen is welcome to the National Tidy Towns Competition. Rathmullen enjoys an enviable location overlooking Lough Swilly and its status is enhanced now with the car ferry service which gives greater access. The village has an important heritage and it is good to note your Heritage Centre with the Flight of the Earls exhibition. The village itself enjoys an interesting layout and its narrow streets give one the sense of being in an older, almost medieval settlement. The rise and fall of your streets in some instances allow scenic views of both the Lough and surrounding countryside. It is important to submit a three year planned work programme with your application next year together with a map of the village indicating your achievements for the year.

The Built Environment:

Many of your new shop fronts are very attractive and fit nicely into their streetscape. The plastic neon fascia sign on the Mace premises should be replaced with a more attractive sign and if the Jimmy's Take Away premises is not still in business its outsized sign should be removed. The Water's Edge development enjoys an excellent presentation, the Harte's premises enjoys an important location within the village and should always be presented to the highest standard, at the time of adjudication it was looking a little weather stained. We look forward to the redevelopment to the corner across from Harte's.

Landscaping:

Stands of mature trees on the Port Salon Road are a handsome feature of Rathmullen and indeed the grounds of the Fort Royal Hotel are exquisite. Verges of all of your approach roads are nicely presented and flower displays in some incidental areas are a nice touch. In future landscaping activities try to use plants that are native to the area and although the need for salt and window tolerant plants is great given your exposed

location try to avoid non-native species such as cordylines.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your interpretive panel on the Aquaculture of Lough Swilly is noted, perhaps another could be provided for the flora and fauna of Rathmullen and indeed of Lough Swilly. Your pier and small beach were presented to the highest standard; it is good to note the excellent maintenance of your natural amenities. You might consider undertaking a wildlife survey on which to base the proposed flora and fauna interpretation panel, perhaps the school children could be involved in this.

Litter Control:

Litter control was very good throughout Rathmullen on the day of adjudication with a minor exception of the environs of the Presbyterian Church. We note the absence of litter bins, is this part of your litter management strategy? Do keep us informed of your activities under litter control as these can be a source of additional marks.

Waste Minimisation:

The recycling point was neatly presented, well done. You might now consider ways of reducing the amount of waste produced by the community for example a waste audit could be undertaken and perhaps the local businesses involved in this to identify ways in which waste could be reduced. Another initiative might be to consider a community composting initiative.

Tidiness:

A number of incidental sites and corners had an untidy aspect and of course some stretches of curb were sprouting weeds at the time of adjudication all of which looks untidy. We look forward to the redevelopment of the site with the hoarding located opposite Harte's. Hopefully your overhead services cables will be ducted at some stage in the future as these are visually obtrusive.

Residential Areas:

There are many new developments in your small village and one wonders if quite a lot of these aren't holiday homes? Try where possible to involve new residents in the life of the village in general and the tidy town's initiative in particular. Encourage residents to take responsibility for the areas outside of their boundary walls and communal areas. A number of terraced properties were nicely painted in soft neutral colours.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

There was too much on-street car parking which gave your streets a very cluttered appearance. The modern lamp standards on the pier look well and hopefully this type will eventually be extended to the centre of the village to replace the poor service poles. A number of finger post signs were in need of refurbishment. Stone walls on approach roads are an attractive feature of Rathmullen and every opportunity should be taken to refurbish these where necessary.

General Impression:

Rathmullen's strength in terms of the Tidy Towns Competition is its amenity potential and its heritage. It is now important to tackle other problem areas such as roads and buildings.