

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Rhode** Ref: **286**  
County: **Offaly** Mark: **251**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **17/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	36
Landscaping	50	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	21
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	34
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>251</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Rhode Parish Enterprise is welcome to the 2008 competition. Many thanks for your completed application form and map which were most useful on the day. Have you put together a work programme? This was mentioned in last year's report. This document need only be a few pages long, outlining your plans and objectives for the village and putting a time scale against their implementation. This document will prove invaluable to you as the years go by, as you can monitor your progress, which is always satisfying. It will also give the adjudicators a clearer idea of your work. You would appear to have a large committee for the size of the village, which must be beneficial to your work. You would also appear to have a good working relationship with local schools and Offaly County Council.

### **The Built Environment:**

The church looked well with its external bell tower and structure. The Garda Station looked well although its boundary wall appeared to be quite grubby possibly due to the amount of traffic thundering through the town. Straight and Curly was quite fresh as was the Post Office, Val's Takeaway and the Health Centre. The school and mural was very fresh. The new chemist shop was note. The proposed business park was also noted and the Village Lounge looked quite charming. We were pleased to note the completion of the new community centre and it was admired on the day. We also look forward to good news regarding completion of work on the derelict site at the centre of the village. We hope that this was not a building of architectural merit as, sadly, many fine vernacular buildings are being torn down around the country and replaced with very bland and uninspired replacements.

### **Landscaping:**

The attractive planted beds throughout had yet to come into their own on adjudication day and must look marvellous when in full bloom. The bench, lamp and hard landscaped area were admired on the Daingean

Road. The pump on this road should be repainted – it is simply presented with a stonewall surround. Planting of petunias in a stone bed on the Edenderry Road looked marvellous. The planting of the window boxes at the school was a lovely idea for the children. The result of the planting of the fence at the Gala Foodstore is looked forward to.

#### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The school wildlife area is an attractive idea and we look forward to seeing the new signage in this location. Have you considered any other projects in this category? Have you conducted a habitat survey?

#### **Litter Control:**

There was some evidence of dumping behind the bins and the signage was quite grubby at the recycling area. Some litter was evident on the Portarlington Road and rubbish was evident at a derelict site. The thrice weekly litter patrol is a good project and we were pleased to hear of its expansion to a large radius, and inclusion of the national school children. Hopefully this will have the desired effect regarding the litter problems of the village!

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

Are your National Schools participating in the Green Flag initiative? We were pleased to note the recycling areas in this locality and the recycling of paper at the community centre. Have you any plans for a community composting scheme? Do you compost the clippings from your own work? Do you segregate the waste and litter you collect?

#### **Tidiness:**

The old community centre should be repainted particularly its murals in the window. A derelict house opposite the school looked unfortunate. A damaged wall was noted to a gateway on the Mullingar Road which should be repaired. Do discourage fly-posting. We note your work in regard to weed control. Are your methods environmentally friendly? The cleaning of signage is also a worthwhile task.

#### **Residential Areas:**

The housing estate in brick and render on the Daingean Road (possibly Priory Lawn - as it had no nameplate?) looked extremely well. Marian Terrace is an attractive simple crescent of houses. Some well maintained houses were admired on the Portarlington Road. The open space to the roadside at Hillview appeared quite overgrown. The cleaning of estate signage is well worthwhile, as is the planting of creeper at the fence.

#### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The Daingean Road appeared quite overgrown at its verges although the retention of the square traditional nameplate was commendable. Along the Portarlington Road the verges were well maintained and mature trees overhang the road making it an attractive entrance to the town. Directional signs in the centre of the town looked quite grubby. Grass verges on the Mullingar Road looked well and trees planted in previous years were doing extremely well. The signage to the Lawrencetown Estate needs repainting and Cloning Estate looked well.

#### **General Impression:**

Rhode is a most attractive centre which continues to perform well in the competition.