

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Rathdrum** Ref: **998**  
County: **Wicklow** Mark: **200**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **12/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	27
The Built Environment	50	26
Landscaping	50	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	17
Litter Control	50	28
Waste Minimisation	20	4
Tidiness	30	13
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>200</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

A warm welcome is extended to the Rathdrum Tidy Towns Committee on their first year in the competition! Thank you for your completed application form and hand-drawn map. You have a good sized committee of eight and it is encouraging to note that you meet regularly with local councillors. Your policy of holding public meetings is commended as this is a great way to involve the public at large. Co-operation with Wicklow Rural Partnership was noted and commended. With regard to this section of the competition please ensure to send in photographs of 'before' and 'after' picture of projects undertaken during the year as this makes it much easier to allocate additional marks.

### **The Built Environment:**

It is refreshing to note the old Mill building is in a good state of repair as all too often they can be left to decay. Jacob's Well, St. Saviours Church, Bridge House, the Garda Station and Railway Station were all admired for their neat appearance. The Boys School looked well and cheery window boxes brightened up the granite façade. The Hanging Baskets at Stirabout B&B were outstanding. The Corner House too had the most fantastic floral display. The Grotto on the Glenealy approach was tidily presented. The Church and Grounds command the most spectacular vantage point and are pristine in their presentation.

### **Landscaping:**

Scarlet geranium blooms adds welcoming splash of colour at the Moneystown junction. Incidental landscaped areas and banks were noted throughout Rathdrum. Beautiful permanent landscaping incorporating trees and shrubs were greatly admired across the road from Avon Motors. Rose and geraniums too were noted on Rock Street and for this you are commended. The many landscaped areas at The Wood are a wonderful addition.

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

The Parnell Memorial Park is a wonderful amenity and facilitates wildlife in Rathdrum. Your plans were noted in regard to the Jacobs Ladder and the new walking route and we look forward to hearing how these progress in the coming years. A good place to start gaining points in this section is by conducting a flora and fauna survey and perhaps one of the schools could get involved?

### **Litter Control:**

Litter control is quite good in Rathdrum and your various activities have been noted. Some litter however, was noted at Corballis Drive and perhaps placing a bin here would solve the problem. There was evidence of dumping in the corner of the car park at the Boys School and a scattering of litter was noted at the car park of the Memorial Park.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

The Boys School is highly commended for their Green Flag status – congratulations to all involved! Is there a recycling point in the town as one could not be found by the adjudicator and there was none indicated on the map? Rathdrum is certainly busy enough to warrant such a facility.

### **Tidiness:**

The most notable feature about Rathdrum is how difficult it is to navigate the narrow streets! Are there any plans to alleviate this? It would appear that a one-way system may be more effective! You are commended on your programme of cleaning signage in Rathdrum. However, much of the signage on the Glenealy approach was covered with algae and should be cleaned regularly as directional signage is often the first place a visitor looks! As with most towns Rathdrum suffers from dereliction and vacant properties and there is often little that a TidyTowns Committee can do but lobby local public representatives. There is still a considerable amount of construction ongoing in Rathdrum and we look forward to the completion of these in the years to come.

### **Residential Areas:**

Parnell Park and Corballis Drive looked well and many gardens were admired. The new apartments at Ivy Leaf are being finished to a high standard and we hope that the project is complete by TidyTowns 2009. Many of the properties in the terraced row adjacent to the Boys Primary School looked fantastic and had recently been painted. The Woods certainly sets the standard when it comes to presentation and hopefully this can be sustained through the years.

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

The Glenealy road was admired for its neat grass verges, good road surface and clear markings. The car park at the Parnell Memorial Park was immaculate. The surface, however, at the parking area at the boy's school is a little uneven. Similarly, the entrance to The Woods was quite rough and this is disappointing.

### **General Impression:**

Rathdrum has entered the competition with a vengeance and you are congratulated on a strong first years mark. There is significant scope to progress for many years and you will be advised year-on-year as to how to go about improving in the various sections. We look forward to your participation next year! Well done!