

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Rathanna** Ref: **44**
County: **Carlow** Mark: **257**
Category: **A** Date(s): **25/06/2009**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2009 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Overall Development Approach | 50 | 34 |
| The Built Environment | 50 | 34 |
| Landscaping | 50 | 35 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 50 | 27 |
| Litter Control | 50 | 40 |
| Waste Minimisation | 20 | 7 |
| Tidiness | 30 | 15 |
| Residential Areas | 40 | 28 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 50 | 29 |
| General Impression | 10 | 8 |
| TOTAL MARK | 400 | 257 |

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Rathanna to the 2009 Tidy Towns Competition. It was a great pleasure to visit this beautiful and attractively located community for the first time. The first impression one gets on examination of Rathanna is that this is a community that deeply cares about its own place. Community pride was everywhere to be appreciated. It was therefore not surprising to read that your Tidy Towns group is highly motivated and organised. Your committee is large by national standards but that is welcomed as is the fact that you have a working partnership with the key agencies that can be of help to you. Your list of local festivals and events is most impressive and it is so heartening to read of such activity in your area. Thank you for the photograph, Litter League Notice and press cutting. For next year you might submit your 3 Year Tidy Towns Plan for the village.

The Built Environment:

The Granite roadside wall at the Hall and the beautiful gates sets off this old School perfectly and all the sculptures were admired. The adjudicator notes your objective to remove the plaster from this building. Do remember that if not replastered then there may be a water ingress problem if the building was originally built to be plastered. Professional advice may be helpful here. The nearby Catholic Church was much liked and the grounds here are so well kept and the Bell Tower is quite unusual. The well painted railings and gate here set off the whole area to great advantage. The white washed seat facing in towards the front wall of the Church needed to be turned around. Across the road the impeccable presentation continued at the car park. Here the landscaping and the sculptures demonstrated great care and attention to details. The new wall at Coady's has been expertly constructed and blends in perfectly. At the Church, the Sli Na Slainte map was very clean and most interesting for the visitor. It is the fine local Granite walls that help to give character and personality to Rathanna and it is so encouraging to read that you too have the same view. The village Pump was admired together with the landscaping, though the white walls will need to be painted for next year.

Coady's was really admired and the fine white washed wall leads around the corner in an impressive manner. The flowers here added further colour. The T Osborne premises were admired though a touch up of the painting may be necessary for next year.

Landscaping:

The spring planting programme with the Geraniums and other flowers is welcomed and various well landscaped areas throughout the village caught the eye. The car park has been mentioned above and below the Church, the landscaped areas, on either side of the road at the White House, were very well presented. The water feature adds a little movement which is welcomed. Along one wall holders for hanging baskets were examined but no baskets were in place.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The bird feeders are a good addition though there must be a lot of natural feeding in the area for wildlife. The two sided wildlife panel at the Church was examined in detail and this is one of the best panels that this adjudicator has seen. The adjudicator commends your objective of planting trees and shrubs that will encourage wildlife to the area.

Litter Control:

The Bring Centre is superbly presented with no litter of any sort evident here, and the adjudicator also looked behind the units where possible. Congratulations on your 1st Prize in the Litter League and your work at the Spring Clean Up. Litter control was exceptionally good on the day of the visit – congratulations to the Rathanna community.

Waste Minimisation:

You did not indicate any new waste minimisation projects for this year though possibilities in a small community like Rathanna may indeed be limited. Is there any waste being produced here that can be eliminated or reduced?

Tidiness:

In the car park, the corrugated iron shed would be improved if painted green or even grey. Near 'Mountain View' a long timber pole at the roadside should be removed by the owner. Weed growth appeared to be well under control this year.

Residential Areas:

Private houses were appropriately presented for such a deeply rural area and appropriate landscaping has been used in many cases.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The presentation of the approach roads was not such that they were crisp and clinical as would be appropriate for an urban area. You have presented your approach roads in a much more natural way that is totally appropriate. The new tarmacadam surface is great!

General Impression:

Well done to the people of Rathanna for the excellence of the way you present your village. Good luck with the work for next year.