

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Rathvilly** Ref: **45**
County: **Carlow** Mark: **273**
Category: **B** Date(s): **21/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	44
The Built Environment	50	36
Landscaping	50	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	27
Litter Control	50	35
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	32
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	273

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Rathvilly to the 2009 Tidy Towns Competition and thank you for your entry. It was encouraging to read that you have a committee of seven people and that you enjoy very good community support. The adjudicator was surprised that none of the agencies appear to be working with you. What is happening in regard to the County Council and LEADER etc? You appear to communicate well with the community through the Newsletter and newspapers. Your engagement with the School is most important. The Entry Form was rather sparsely completed and lacked detail as a number of the sections were left blank in respect of 2009. Future projects mentioned were limited. Again this year no map of Rathvilly was provided for the adjudicator and this makes the adjudication process difficult. Likewise, a copy of a new 3 Year Plan was not included. The adjudicator approached Rathvilly with a great deal of real anticipation knowing the background to your excellent performance over many years. As the Report will explain the visit was largely a disappointing one in terms of the situation as observed on the day of the adjudication.

The Built Environment:

No new projects were indicated under this category and again this year the Phoenix Centre awaited urgent repainting. At the Grotto, on the Tullow approach, the low white walls on each side would be improved if repainted. Good landscaping was admired at the Church of Ireland. The GAA complex and cap park, apart from a litter issue, were neatly presented. The fine stone bridge is one of the key features of Rathvilly and an information panel to give some history of this structure might be considered. It is suggested that the red door at Superior Valeting be repainted. Some weed growth here at the base of the main wall needs attention also. The old Mill with the surviving water wheel was admired on the approach to Rathvilly from that side. It is good to see that it has found a new productive use. At the School, the Green Flag was proudly blowing in the wind of a June afternoon. The School gate needed to be repainted. The Health Centre was neatly presented and well painted though the roadside sign needed to be washed. The Catholic Church, in landscaping terms, is

beautifully presented and the Roses were much admired. The railings, however, would be improved if repainted. Good clean fresh painting was noted at Geoghegans Shop. At the Garda Station, the Granite entrance area is an attractive architectural detail.

Landscaping:

Work at Woodgrove estate entrance was mentioned in the entry form. This is one of the stronger performance categories for Rathvilly. Roadside landscaping at St Patrick's Park provided welcome additional colour to this area where the old village Pump is an important aspect of Rathvilly's history. At the high wall to the side of Mace, what appeared, to be an abandoned landscaping timber barrel was noted. Hanging baskets and window boxes were admired at Lawlor's and at various other houses and premises in the village. On either side of the entrance roadway to the Church very good landscaping sets off the building in an attractive way. Likewise, the beautiful Roses along the other roadside add to the overall picture here.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

No projects were identified here. The river is a key asset in wildlife terms and the adjudicator suggests that a wildlife survey of the Rathvilly might be carried out. Talk with the School as there might be someone there who has an interest in wildlife and who might be able to help. There may indeed be a potential for a Wildlife and Heritage Trail.

Litter Control:

No work was identified in terms of litter control. The Anti-Litter sign on the Tallow approach road was examined and it is eye catching. It was in respect of litter that one of the biggest disappointments in regard to Rathvilly was realised and the situation on adjudication day was quite serious. Quite a lot of litter was noted on the Tullow approach road and at Fr Cullen Terrace. The problem became evident again in the car park at the GAA and on the roadside here at Slaney Bank. A lot of litter was evident at the Pump area at St Patrick's Park. At the Bring Centre the official signage was missing and the other signage present was faded and could not be read. Much litter was noted along the base of the long wall at Mace, though they obviously had nothing to do with this situation. Along from Geoghegans Shop, where the yellow wall meets the Church railings, quite a lot of litter was present. The litter control situation last year was excellent according to the 2008 Report and the visit then took place at a weekend. This year's adjudication also took place at a weekend so there has been some serious deterioration in litter control in Rathvilly.

Waste Minimisation:

There were no projects for this year identified in the entry form. This category is about reducing the amount of waste generated in Rathvilly and encouraging further recycling. Have you considered some projects with the School? Another idea would be to hold a public meeting in Rathvilly on waste awareness and recycling.

Tidiness:

No projects in respect of tidiness were noted in the entry form. On the Tullow approach graffiti was present on the Tidy Towns Bronze Medal 2000 plaque. Where the Kevin Barry road meets the main road the area by the Rathvilly sign was quite untidy and the Kevin Barry sign badly damaged. In from Fr Cullen Terrace black timber fencing on the left at an opening needed to be repaired and repainted. On the Baltinglass side some untidy advertising signage was noted opposite the stone house. On the same side as the house a large directional sign was damaged. Signage clutter was noted in the triangular landscaped area in the centre of the village where eleven fingerposts were noted. Can there be some rationalisation here?

Residential Areas:

No projects were identified here. At Ard Bhaile extremely badly presented grass areas were much in evidence. Extremely bad weed growth at kerbs was also noted. Some good individual presentations were admired along Kevin Barry Road but some walls and road boundary walls needed to be painted along other parts of this road. Fr Cullen Terrace was reasonably well presented, though the timber fencing needed to be repaired and repainted. Good landscaping at the entrance caught the eye. Really beautiful grass areas were much admired at Slaney Meadows and this is how green open spaces should always be presented. Along St Phelim Street a beautiful terrace of very well presented houses were admired.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

No projects were listed under this category. In general approach roads were poorly presented and inconsistent. Some good verge areas were noted that are obviously being maintained while other verge areas appeared to have been abandoned. Approach roads and streets are of key importance as they often create the first impression for the first time visitor.

General Impression:

The adjudicator is very conscious of the great performance of Rathvilly in TidyTowns over many years but has to report on the situation as seen on adjudication day. Hopefully, this Report will be helpful when you are writing your new TidyTowns Plan. Good luck with your work for next year.