

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Rathcormac** Ref: **1268**
County: **Cork(North)** Mark: **209**
Category: **C** Date(s): **26/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	28
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	26
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	209

Overall Development Approach:

Thanks for the filled up entry form. I did not find a map of the area or a 3/5 year plan. I note you have 14 committee members and you hold monthly meetings and do some litter picks. You are getting support from Spar, Vintage Club, Kilshannig stud, Desmond paints, a local farmer, scouts and HB. You are getting your message across well to the local community. The contact with the school is worthwhile. It is pleasing to find that you are getting satisfaction out of participating in the Tidy Towns Competition. All of this means you have a good overall development approach.

The Built Environment:

The Church of Ireland is quite a historical building, I note a 'sale agreed' sign on it, and I trust there is a preservation order on it so that it retains its original identity. The two plaques to 1798 are interesting and historical. There is an interesting building boarded up alongside M Riordan, Baker; I saw a notice on it for planning permission, but in the meantime it could be camouflaged with the permission of the owner to improve its appearance. The Catholic church looked very well with good landscaping and the beautiful gates and railings were being painted when I was there to further enhance the impressive entrance. The community centre looked very good, and the school was presented neat and tidy and I saw a number of temporary classrooms to accommodate the increased population. The school has a spacious playground, and it sported good trees to screen it off from the main road. The new houses and shops along the main road blend in well with the old village. The older shops are well maintained.

Landscaping:

Neat touches of landscaping adorn the town, with fine stretches of well cared for grass margins along the main road entrances. Flower beds in sleepers and other floral arrangements were pretty. I loved the old

traditional water pump.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

I note you made contact with a local wildlife group, and this is positive. You could initiate a survey of the fauna and flora of Rathcormac.

Litter Control:

The control of litter was good and it is obvious that you are giving a lot of attention to it, as just a few isolated bits of litter were found near the filling station and this could come from passing motorists.

Waste Minimisation:

I inspected the 7 bottle bins and the 2 clothes banks, they are recessed nicely from the road and all were well serviced. Real advances are made in this category when the children get involved in the green flag status.

Tidiness:

The town was, for the most part, tidy. Some vacant houses are neglected, but I appreciate there is little you can do about this. You could discuss the matter with the County Council. It is positive to have high viz jackets for your members.

Residential Areas:

Once a village, you have now developed into a small town, and the new developments are well back from the village and, therefore, passers-by are not aware of the size of the town. The traditional and new houses along the main road look very well. The new estates are laid out very well and nicely landscaped with good open spaces. The community park and children's playground are good facilities and it was great to see so many children enjoying themselves in the fresh air on a summer's day.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The main roads are in good condition, but there are some quite uneven surfaces in the town needing attention. Signposts are clean and distinct, and I liked the small finger signs. There are some great traditional stone walls on the side roads and I found that the one on the Garrynacoole road needs attention. Could I point out that great care must be taken when repairing traditional stone walls in that they must be repaired in the same style as the existing parts, no fancy work or ribbon pointing, and the mortar used is mainly a lime based one with very little cement used. Information on this is available from the conservation officer at Cork County Council.

General Impression:

You are making a determined effort to maintain and improve your town. You could consider the planting of some more trees and I recommend that you get two books, the first is Paddy Madden's book The School Garden and the second is Our Trees ISBN 0-9518612 -5-5 and in no time you could be propagating your own trees.