

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Rossadrehid** Ref: **602**
County: **Tipperary(South)** Mark: **270**
Category: **A** Date(s): **12/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	39
The Built Environment	50	36
Landscaping	50	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	27
Litter Control	50	40
Waste Minimisation	20	4
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	34
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	270

Overall Development Approach:

Congratulations to the Rossadrehid TidyTowns Committee for participating in the TidyTowns Competition 2009. Thank you for your submission, the photos and for your map. The map was of great assistance. It is a pity that you did not include a 3-5 Year Plan. The photos illustrate that you are a caring group of people, who take on many laborious tasks for the benefit of your community and show that your work continues throughout the year. You mention that you feel like retiring from the competition each year because of all the work that is required. Thankfully, for the residents of the village you change your minds again and again. Imagine how the village would look without your visits to the County Council, not to mention your other endeavours within the village. Consider formulating a plan for the village for the next few years. It would give you targets to aim at and support you in your weaker moments.

The Built Environment:

No Church. No school. No pub. But what you have is beautiful. The shop is a credit to all involved. The frustration of your submission regarding the former Post Office has been tackled and the result is most pleasing. The before the painting photos of the grotto and the appearance of the grotto on today's visit provide a stark contrast. Well done. You have some problems. A coat of paint here or a power wash there would improve the appearance of the village even further. But one imagines that many farmers have more pressing demands than adding a coat of paint. The work you did on that unoccupied building, beside the grotto, has lit up the grotto and the shop across the road. The red theme in the shop is carried through on the village pump and all contrast beautifully with the black across the road. Strong contrasting colours brighten up the experience in Rossadrehid. A green farm gate with shining white walls and a black gate with sky blue pillars and wall were admired; and what lovely sites they are.

Landscaping:

Someone has green fingers and an eye for landscaping design in Rossadrehid. The various beds are a credit to all involved. Add to this the tubs and window boxes. The passer by will want to stop and take in the decoration of the surroundings. The local will feel pride in his native place. The amenity areas, three at least, in a small village like yours are all well cared for. Tables, seats, water, mown grass and bins. Years of planning. The photo of the lady painting the rail evokes sympathy. Such a long distance for one two-inch brush. And the result is spectacular. Maybe the photographer gave a hand when the photography was completed. The dry walls are a distinct feature of Rossadrehid. The well trimmed conifers atop the wall add further interest to the main street. The natural hedges are a lovely landscaping feature, with the wild woodbine and elder berry providing extra colour.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

It was a joy to find your sign for your wildlife habitat and to visit it over the quaint, freshly stained style. It is a glorious site. Now once you have the site, the work begins. What birds visit? What birds could be attracted to visit, if there were suitable bird boxes? What other little creatures frequent this site? Have surveys of bird life in the area been carried out up to now? Can the schools or Bird Watch help?

Litter Control:

Whatever measures you take to keep the village litter free, they are being effective. There are long stretches of road to cover. There are lots of opportunities to drop litter at picnic tables. Not so. The bins are being used or the litter is being brought home. Either way there is very little litter. Even though, there is no school in the village, the kids are attending somewhere. Get parents to engage with the teachers on litter awareness and litter reduction.

Waste Minimisation:

This section still poses a challenge for your group. It could benefit your committee to study the booklet 'Race Against Waste'. Such a study would stimulate new waste elimination projects for you. Remember that the emphasis in this section is not on litter control or on clean-ups, but on minimising waste in your community. The litter belongs to another section.

Tidiness:

Rossadrehid presents a tidy image. The work that is apparent all along the main street, the footpath, the dry stone walls, the painting all contribute to that tidy sense. Where verges are trimmed, remember this work needs to be carried out regularly. Otherwise the verges can look like a trip to the barber for a much needed hair cut, appearing more scalped than cut for the next few days. Self help is evident where your signs are concerned. The graffiti has disappeared. The black script and white background contrast very clearly. A job well done. The name signs for the Riverside Walk and for Chestnut Meadow Park lend a sense of identity to both places and look well. There are a few signs that need cleaning.

Residential Areas:

Private houses are generally well presented. There are varying designs that attract the eye. The fronts of these houses are most important to the appearance of Rossadrehid. The estate that has been built on the site of the old creamery must be a relief to you. This estate looks attractive and can be further improved with planting as it beds in.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

No other village is so defined by its bridges. The village was appropriately named. On one route through the village, a heritage bridge of stone marks arrival and departure. Both bridges are in good shape. On the Bansa approach road there are two bridges of more modern design, with pointed stone and railing. Both look most impressive. Then there are the timber bridges, so newly stained and seemingly added not just to cross the stream, but to reinforce the impression of Ross na nDroichead. The fact that there are at least two further bridges leading into private homes, should impress on you that the bridge is a major theme in this little village. The area leading from the village to the lake would benefit from your prompting.

General Impression:

The visit to Rossadrehid was a delightful experience. Do not dare retire from this competition because your contribution to village life is immense. There are new residents in Rossadrehid to assist you in your many tasks. Rossadrehid is a shining example of the power of the community that helps itself. If you wait for the County Council to come to your assistance your bridge will rust. The call to arms on the notice of the shop door is the solution to your problems. When you do it yourselves, the result is shining and immaculate. Keep the spirits up.