

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ruan** Ref: **86**
County: **Clare** Mark: **256**
Category: **A** Date(s): **09/07/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	38
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	39
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	18
Litter Control	50	38
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	33
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	256

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Ruan to the 2009 Tidy Towns Competition. The entry was very sparse but the adjudicator understood about the dog! For next year can you enclose a map of Ruan showing your projects for the year and a copy of your 3 Year Tidy Towns Plan? The provision of the Plan could give have positive marks implications. The committee of seven seems to be really busy with a regular meetings schedule. The adjudicator was surprised not to see a reference to Clare County Council as an agency that works with you. Do try and develop a working partnership with the School.

The Built Environment:

The extended stone wall at the west end of the village was examined and admired. It is a pity that the capping does not replicate that of the older traditional wall across the road, but such detailing can sometimes be difficult to achieve. Stood walls are a really strong feature of Ruan and give much character to this attractive village. At the National School the window boxes added a little welcome colour and the Church down the road was admired with its entrance landscaping. Good lettering stands out at the Dalcassian Ruan premises and the colour scheme here is effective. At the petrol pumps the white wall to the rear needed to be repainted.

Landscaping:

The new flower planting in beds and containers for this year was examined and admired. The Jimmy Smith Park is a most attractive well maintained area. The adjudicator wondered what the paved area with the low walls represented and perhaps an information panel on this might be considered. The area at the end of the Park is an excellent one for wildlife. Out beyond the Church the two circular beds under the fine trees were attractively presented while the elongated stone bordered Rose bed was very colourful. The village Pump was attractively landscaped but not over done. Very good landscaping enhanced the junction of the Corrofin and Tubber roads.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

It was encouraging to read that the School uses The Riasec as a resource. As suggested last year, wildlife interpretative panels are again suggested. Perhaps you can get the School involved in a wildlife survey. Another possibility is to meet with the local Wildlife Ranger to discuss local wildlife development possibilities.

Litter Control:

Your entry referred to the community wide clean up and this is a great idea. A little litter was noted in the car park to the rear of the pub near the School. In Hazelgrove estate some litter was evident and on the road on the western approach. In Toormore estate a few pieces of litter were also noted. The Bring Centre is well located and just a few pieces of litter were evident here and the official signage was missing. With the above exceptions litter control in Ruan was quite good on the day of the visit.

Waste Minimisation:

No projects were identified in the entry form that came under this adjudication category. This section is about waste reduction in Ruan and the possibilities for recycling. You might look at these issues for next year.

Tidiness:

You have been involved in weed control with good results. The only serious weed issue was noted along the road on the western approach to Ruan. Why are pipes stored in the Park just inside the wall? Below the Park the car park on the left was rather untidy but road works were taking place nearby. Gravel stored in the car park at the Graveyard looked a little untidy. One derelict house was noted but this has been cosmetically treated and looked quite well. The blue roadside advertising sign at the School looked rather out of place. On the approach to the village from Tubber the impact of the advertising signage at the road junction was rather poor.

Residential Areas:

The majority of private houses were carefully presented and in many cases enhanced by good landscaping. A few road boundary walls needed to be repainted. Near the Park a yellow road boundary wall needed urgent attention.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads to Ruan impressed the adjudicator and it is the fine stone walls that make the approaches so special. The Tubber approach has been excellently landscaped and for some good distance out. On the Ennis approach work on road kerbing was just starting. This should give you further landscaping possibilities.

General Impression:

It was a real pleasure to visit Ruan for the first time. You have the potential to do very well in the Competition and do try to work on a planned basis over a three year period.