

# Tidy Towns Competition 2011

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Rathvilly** Ref: **45**  
County: **Carlow** Mark: **283**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **07/07/2011**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2010</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2011</b>
Overall Development Approach	50	45	45
The Built Environment	50	37	37
Landscaping	50	38	39
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	27	27
Litter Control	50	35	36
Waste Minimisation	20	9	9
Tidiness	30	17	18
Residential Areas	40	33	33
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31	31
General Impression	10	7	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>283</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Rathvilly TidyTowns and Development Association is heartily welcomed to the competition for 2011 on this your Golden Year. Glad to see that you have celebrated that golden era in your village when you set the TidyTowns pace for the rest of the country. Thank you for your submission, for the 3 Year Plan and for enclosing a map for the adjudicator. The adjudicator feels that there can be precious little left for the adjudicator to say that has not been trotted out to you over the years. Hopefully you will get some grain of comfort from this year's repetition. Your comment that this competition has helped new dwellers of your village to integrate into the community makes your entry worthwhile. May your new Rathvilly rose inspire as the other roses of the village have been doing for many years.

### The Built Environment:

The adjudicator feels honoured to be in Rathvilly. Immediately the unusual design of the village makes an impact. It is if there are two villages on either side of the bridge, both maintaining their standards of appearance maybe by competing with the other. The bridge is the referee and its design makes it very much part of the built environment of Rathvilly. Another unusual feature, railings on one side of the bridge only. Well, why not. A building that is no longer in use near the bridge is tastefully maintained with its white dash and fresh red reveals. Then a history lesson, Kevin Barry hails from this area and is delightfully remembered. Most of the buildings in the village are crisply presented. The Church dominates its surroundings, the grotto in the grounds another visual highlight. The Pharmacy and Molloy's have attractive fronts. Áras an Fhionnuisce is most likely the community centre and it is not too bad either but could do with a bit of encouragement. A wall beside the Áras could be an eyesore but is nicely painted under its corrugated roof. Buildings such as the school, the Health Centre and the Garda Station complete the peaceful, tasteful picture. Two conflicting comments about the Garda building: the fabulous cut stone doorway and the entrance that could do with a rub of paint. The finger sign post beckoning one to your French twin is a gracious touch.

### **Landscaping:**

Evidence of the work of previous committees in landscaping design, in tree planting, in hedge planting is apparent throughout the village and on the approach roads. The adjudicator was really taken by the amount of hawthorn hedging that has developed. No fears for the damage a severe winter might cause with this hedging. Rathvilly is a town for roses. The railed off gardens at the church are a particular delight. Is it a roundabout or a raised bed in the middle of the road. Whatever you call it is a focal point of village life and presentation. The adjudicator is sure that the appearance of the village pump has been praised to high heavens year in year out on its wedding cake tiered hard landscaping. This year the designers and the tradesmen take another bow. A bow also for the person who donated the water troughs. Those are an unusual touch. The Rathvilly Inn was not mentioned under the built environment because the adjudicator wanted to include it in the landscaping section. The beautifully landscaped open space and the Inn with its accompanying residences enhance one another. The open space appears like a front lawn to the buildings. The buildings appear as a delightful backdrop for the green. The boundary wall gives definition to the total picture. Renewal of shrubberies is something TidyTowns committees are reluctant to undertake. Not so here in Rathvilly. That retaining wall has seen changes to its planting plan over the years. The present plan is most attractive.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

Well done on leaving meadowing to grow so as to facilitate the wildlife. There is no negative effect of presentation from doing this. There are acres of ground on the unfinished estate. The adjudicator was pleased that this green area has been let grow. One is certain that this was not done for the sake of birds or bees but the advantage of the situation is that they will benefit. The adjudicator is pleased to read in your 3 Year Plan of your intention to develop a heritage and wildlife trail. One feels that there is plenty of material for such an initiative, the area of the mill wheel being an example of where heritage and wildlife coincide.

### **Litter Control:**

While litter was experienced amounts are small. One is pleased to see that you concentrate on litter awareness through the schools. Of interest also is that you discuss litter control in your 3 Year Plan in the context of the environment. In a village like Rathvilly one wonders have you reached a stage where provision of litter bins should no longer be a priority.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

Well done on the segregation, on the recycling and on the composting. A special mention of praise for acquiring the mulch mower. The adjudicator wants to remind you that recycling is but one element of the waste minimisation process. The purpose of the section is to minimise waste. Check out the website on stopfoodwaste and the green homes website. These will spark new projects to minimise domestic waste.

### **Tidiness:**

The standard of presentation is very good overall. The estates are very well maintained. Grass verges could do with a helping hand in places. The Garda garage door has got a mention. There is also a fence near the bridge that is noticed.

### **Residential Areas:**

Your submission shows that you are forever renewing work already undertaken. This is admirable. Every estate in the village was visited and the experience was uplifting. Yes Rathvilly has beautiful new housing but it will be hard to out do the previous generations for design, for maintenance and for impeccable presentation. Where the foundation stone in estates dates back to 1955 it means that those estates contributed to the appearance of a village that won three TidyTowns awards and can still contribute proudly to the housing stock and built environment of the village. Slaney Meadows not only continues the rose theme but has its own gallán or ogham stone. The painted theme in Michael Collins Avenue brings another dimension to that estate and creates an individuality for the estate. In Ardán Ui Chuilinn it's the dwarf roses greet one. Cottages are charming. Individual residences bring colour to their surroundings. In time you plan that all estates have a name displayed. Good. The housing on the way down to the old station was nearly missed entirely. This would have been a shame and a major omission. The walls down here too are a further joy.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The adjudicator felt that the approach of this beautiful village was not signalled soon enough on all of the approach roads. One understands the demands that cutting verges puts on a group and on finances, yet one width of the lawnmower would create a new definition on the roadsides and would be attractive. That verge

would also enhance the appearance of the hedging behind, as it already does for some stretches. Residents are to be complimented for the treatment of their front gardens and walls. The entrances to estates add variety and colour.

**General Impression:**

The pride experienced back in the '60's as winners is still being expressed to-day in the delightful appearance of Rathvilly. First prize may have drifted from grasp but the winning still continues in the commitment to enhance the living experience of Rathvilly. Landscaping is renewed all the time, old houses are preserved, trees are majestic and shaped to meet the traffic demands. The wonderful sports facilities express the care of this village for the well being of its residents. It is right and proper that the Minister for the Environment should be honoured to unveil your commemorative plaque.