

Tidy Towns Competition 2013

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Rathangan** Ref: **383**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **296**
Category: **C** Date(s): **03/07/2013**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2012	Mark Awarded 2013
Overall Development Approach	50	43	43
The Built Environment	50	37	37
Landscaping	50	40	41
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	39	40
Litter Control	50	35	35
Sustainable Waste And Resource Management	20	15	16
Tidiness	30	21	21
Residential Areas	40	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30	30
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	400	293	296

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your entry to the 2013 Tidy Towns Competition. Your entry form, copy of your Five Year Plan and map were all very helpful to the adjudicator. Your committee together with your core of twenty five plus volunteers work well with the County council, local businesses and other relevant agencies which help your group achieve their objectives by sponsorship and other supports. Your communication to the greater community is done by social media, local newspapers and word of mouth. The local schools are another source of support and they have all done well achieving Green Flag status which they are complimented on. It is important that the whole community together with the schools and youth organisations are involved in all projects undertaken as your group has demonstrated. Your town has benefited from the Competition by enhancing the environment of the town, sharing and networking with the community at large.

The Built Environment:

Rathangan like most towns and villages have unoccupied buildings which can become derelict and this takes from the appearance of the streetscape. Your group are addressing these problems by painting or cleaning where possible to improve the appearance of the buildings, evidence of this was noted. On the approach road from Monasterevin, the town nameplate and lock gate with nice green area looks well. The nice stone wall by the canal and Ardscoil Rath lomhain were noted, gates here however were in need of painting. The Industrial Estate was also admired and is an important part of the town. Tannery Park which is a lovely amenity for the town was visited and admired. The memorial garden with seating and planting too looked lovely. The old Mill at the canal bridge looked dreary, memories of bygone days. The Burrows looked welcoming. Looking down the street from the green that is now minus the phone box, it has lovely mature trees and nice stone flower beds which were enjoyed by the adjudicator. One of the flowerbeds in memory of Bitia Mary Croker was noted. The old school house with its yellow door looked well. The Church of Ireland was also visited and admired as was the graveyard dating back to 1700. The Garda Station looked well. There are many more fine impressive buildings in the town: Bunscoil Bhrida, the Church, Noone Engineering and the Community Centre. The Quaker Cemetery and newly restored walls of a different era added to the streetscape of the town.

Landscaping:

Tannery Park is a lovely area with some lovely trees and plants. There is also a pleasant planted area at the

memorial garden to Poet William A. Byrne with nice heathers giving all year round colour. The memorial to Maura Laverty and nice stone monument with flowers was noted. It is good that you remember your people that have left a legend behind in their writings. The green area had some lovely beds of roses and herbaceous plants. It is good to note that you are planting many native trees and plants that bring all year round colour and food for wildlife in the town. Do continue with this type of planting as recommended by the TidyTowns. There were lovely hanging baskets and tubs of flowers throughout the town that brought colour to the town and made it look colourful and attractive.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

As you say in your entry Rathangan is fortunate to be situated in a lovely location with a natural environment for wildlife. It is good to see the community partake in the Barrow Awards Scheme which encourages communities to develop more amenities within a suitable distance of the river. Having being successful and gaining first place in the county has rewarded the community for their enhancement of the amenities. This is commended and will encourage the community with further developments.

The planting that you currently do in the area which provides food for wildlife, shows that you are attending workshops, talks, communicating with the relevant trained people and getting right direction in the areas of planning for wildlife is commended. There are also lovely amenity walks for the community that have been developed such as the resurfacing of the footpath around the riverside. Nesting boxes were noted in trees at the green. Well done on your continuing work in this category.

Litter Control:

Your policy on combatting litter in the town is proving worthwhile. It is good to see that the community is focussed on having regular clean-ups and the County Council are giving you good support. The stone bins blend well with the stonework of the town and hopefully will encourage people to use them and assist you with your work. Some litter was noticed on day of adjudication in the Memorial Garden and at the Bottle Bank. Continue the good work.

Sustainable Waste And Resource Management:

Your survey designed for local businesses to assess waste management and energy conservation is welcomed. The appendices four and five as mentioned in your entry were not attached, do send a copy and results for next year's competition. Your list of actions over the three Rs was noted and indicates that you are doing well across the areas on the Waste Pyramid. Your colourful composting area was visited and admired, very encouraging. Hopefully it is used to its full potential.

Tidiness:

The work you have done in this category has been noted, but there are still areas here which need addressing. The Bottle Bank with its murals was admired even though some litter was noticed here. The Wildflower Information board at the canal needs cleaning or painting as does the school directional sign in the town on the corner. Some more signs were in need of cleaning or painting like the directional sign at the Green. Weed growth was also noticed along kerbs at the Garda Station.

Residential Areas:

The residential areas of the town are well maintained and having Residents Association's taking care of their own estates is very helpful to the TidyTowns. They give good help in preparing the town for the national competition through their work in their estates. It is also good to see that the County Council are supportive. Do you have a Best Estate Competition? This rewards and encourages residents to look after their own areas. A number of estates were visited rather than single any one out, they were all nicely landscaped with well-maintained green areas. There was impressive and attractive houses through the town with hanging baskets and tubs of flowers. Well done to all the community for having pride in their areas and the town they live in.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads to the town were good but some improvement is necessary in places. On the Bracknagh Road, the road surface was uneven outside the boy's school and the railings and gates of the school were in need of painting. Across the road from the school an arch with a gate make a nice feature on this road, however the gate was in need of painting. Some gates at the Community Centre were also in need of painting. The bridges looked well and all grass verges were neat. Approach road hedges, stone walls and trees were also well presented.

General Impression:

Rathanagan is situated in a lovely location and is using the natural surroundings to enhance and use the natural amenities available. Thank you for your participation in the competition and continued success in the future.