

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **ROCHFORTBRIDGE**  
County : **WESTMEATH**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 07-07-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	32
The Built Environment	40	26	25
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	10	10
Litter Control	40	22	22
Tidiness	20	11	10
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	25
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>177</b>

## **Rochfortbridge, County Westmeath**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for the map and the information on the development plan. There are many good points for development and the adjudicators look forward to progress in these areas. The plan, however should primarily be for the village rather than for FAS. It is important that the village does not become too reliant on FAS and keep the long term objectives of their Tidy Town in focus. Well done on work completed. It is good to note that you intend to research the history and heritage of the area. The points regarding the derelict buildings were noted.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The buildings in the village were generally well presented. Both the church and schools were well presented as was the newly painted building beside the tidy graveyard. The two takeaways were a credit to their industry. There was no evidence of litter, they were well painted and attractive in presentation. The Garda station looked well. The pumps on the main street and on the Clonlost road required attention and a tin roof and derelict building can be seen from the Athlone approach and detracts from the village. The wall along the Portarlinton road is commendable - well done. The adjudicators were delighted to hear that the infamous derelict building beside the Truckers Rest is due for refurbishment.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Incidental landscaping throughout the village looked well. The adjudicators look forward to the landscaped area on the Portarlinton road being completed. The reseeding here is coming on well. There is also good use of shrub planting throughout the village which creates a more permanent framework for planting.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The adjudicators look forward to the plan in which areas of wildlife will be identified. There are several habitats evident i.e. Hedgerow, meadow. These can be enhanced through the encouragement of wildflower growth. Seek advice from those knowledgeable in the field e.g. Birdwatch Ireland and Conservation Volunteers. Bird tables and boxes should also be encouraged in private houses.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

Only a small amount of litter was evident on the day of adjudication and this was outside the church. The litterbins were in good condition. It is good to note that you got new bins and that

a day of collection has been organised. A couple of bins do need renewing though, e.g. Castlepark and in the main street.

## **TIDINESS**

As there was quite an amount of building being carried out, there was quite an amount of building materials evident. These must be removed when work is complete. Derelict buildings in the village do give an unkempt air and weeds in the gutter on the Mullingar approach road should be tackled.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Residences were generally presented to a high standard in Rochfortbridge. Houses along by the Truckers Restaurant were well painted and well presented. Derrygreenagh Estate looked well. Some of the houses had been freshly painted though some did need a bit of attention. The Sycamores, though not complete, sported some fine hanging baskets. Broomfield Estate looked well and one house in particular had a fine display of baskets. The main street had a number of fine houses which had been newly painted and had some nice landscaping. On the Clonlost road there was a series of well presented bungalows and a cream coloured cottage was presented in a simple and effective fashion - well done .

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

The tree planting enhances the approach roads. The Athlone road will have a fine sweep of trees. The new trees on the Kinnegad road will mature nicely, though some of them need replacing as they have died. The Mullingar road was reasonable though there were weeds in the gutter. Broken railings in the centre of the village require mending.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Rochfortbridge being situated on a main road is an important village. It has progressed steadily over the past couple of years and has the potential to progress further. A more comprehensive plan is required taking into account the items as submitted on the form. A time scale should also be included and the plan itself should take into account both resources and limitations on the ground. Good luck with the work.