

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Rathmullan** Ref: **906**
County: **Donegal** Mark: **253**
Category: **B** Date(s): **29/06/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	38
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	36
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	36
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	20
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	13
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	50
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	30
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	30
TOTAL MARK	450	253

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

It is great to see Rathmullan back in the Tidy Towns Competition this year. Since your last entry there was plenty for us to see that proved you have made considerable progress. Your population is given at 540 and your entry is in the category of villages. We note from your 2012 yearbook that that was the year you began to undertake the new initiatives. It is great to read that your committee has eleven members, who receive, in turn, support from twenty other volunteers. Further to that, you mention a group of over forty helpers who are drawn from various local organisations. That is an impressive body of active workers all pulling together.

We thank you for the fine hand-drawn map showing us the location of your project sites and schemes. Go n-éirí an t-ádh libh sna blianta atá romhaibh.

Built Environment and Streetscape / An Timpeallacht Thógtha agus Sráid-dreacha:

The topography of Rathmullan adds interest to the individual buildings and to their settings, all reflected in the ups and downs, as well as its turns, its nooks and its crannies. A heritage walk might assist you in introducing visitors to the various churches and older buildings.

St Joseph's church commands a fine view. The Presbyterian church is set off well by the finely kept grounds, with lovely gate piers. The Church of Ireland also made a good impression and the near way leading up to it is really attractive.

We really admired the old boathouse that faces the seaside car park. Its rich architectural features mark it out. We wondered whether you have considered the possibility of a renewal/restoration project there.

Premises that were well-presented included the pharmacy, An Bonnán Buí, Big Paddy's, Patrick Patton's, The Market Fruit & Veg. The Looking Glass caught our eye and the Tanyard building is really eye-catching, also enjoying a spectacular location.

The Oznan development is an admirable local amenity.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

We found the seaside playground very busy. It was great to see so many youngsters testing your wide variety of swings, the roundabout and other attractions. We admired the fine stand of yew trees opposite the graveyard at St Joseph's. The little park with the mega Cup and the bridge proved novel.

We were very impressed by the memorial commemorating the Flight of the Earls (1607). John Behan's sculpture group is really evocative of that sad chapter in Irish history. The associated panel tells us much of the story behind the event. We did notice the square blue building standing between the memorial and the sea (coastguard hut?). We strongly advise that it be repositioned, so that the connection between the memorial and the sea is left unhindered. It deserves an open marine aspect.

The open area contains several fine lamp standards but they are randomly scattered rather than lighting the footpath. You might request the Council to rationalize the lighting layout, again to avoid intruding on the historic free-standing memorial that deserves to be kept unhindered as the centerpiece.

Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fiadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádúrtha:

Your variety of habitats was reflected in the number of different birds we saw. We noticed a flock of house martins darting about over the graveyard. Nearby, we sat and watched a murmuration of starlings, one of nature's best novelties. At another point, we listened to the raucous flock of crows. This diversity set us thinking whether you might follow up on the bird identification exercise you held last February with Bird Watch Ireland, say by inviting local school children to carry out a project/study, to identify how many bird species are to be seen in Rathmullan, in which habitats and at what time of the year.

Sustainable Waste and Resource Management / Bainistiú Acmhainní agus Dramhaíola Inbhuanaithe:

Rathmullan certainly benefits from projects such as the Resource Centre and the charity shop (St V de P.) That charity shop is an ideal means of recycling articles locally while raising useful funds for a great cause.

We note your initiative with the local school children, telling them about the latest approach to resource management. Your project promoting the re-use of school materials for art work is commended, as is the effort to reduce the amount of photocopying. You are correct in pinpointing the challenge presented by paper and food waste. Well done.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

This is a category which you have now approached very earnestly. The good work undertaken by yourselves, by the local volunteers and also by the Council is highly commended.

There are a few points you might consider now. The litter bin near the 1607 memorial was overflowing on adjudication day. You may also consider whether there is some advertising clutter opposite the public space that contains the mega Cup of Tea.

Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:

Rathmullan contains a fine variety of houses - new, old, terraced and individual. We were entertained and intrigued reading the background history provided about the Big Houses of the area, including Rathmullan House, Fort Royal and Drumhalla House. We found that Rathmullan House has a restrained and dignified entrance.

Maolín Park was well presented. The coastguard houses are finely maintained and congratulations on the stone planters.

The old cottage opposite St Joseph's graveyard is a real gem.

Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:

Rathmullan benefits greatly from the setting, with the seashore in the foreground and the green mountains in the background. We look forward to a return visit in the near future. Well done to all concerned.

Concluding Remarks: