

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ARDATTIN**
County : **CARLOW**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 11-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22
Landscaping	40	34
The Built Environment	40	34
Litter Control	40	34
Tidiness	20	16
Residential Areas	30	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	33
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	300	239

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Although you have not submitted a 3/5 year plan of action for Ardattin, you would appear to have a clear idea of what you would like to achieve for your town in the future. However, a strategy for developing the town's strong points and, indeed tackling problem areas is essential for next year's competition. This should be based on the constructive remarks made in this report and enlisting the help of a professional consultant to formulate a programme for the town. The enthusiasm is obviously there and your established relationships with Carlow County Council and FAS will, hopefully, be of great benefit to the community as a whole.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Perhaps the best approach to this issue of wildlife/natural amenities would be to contact local environmental groups and experts who could advise you and provide you with the information you need to tackle this broad-ranging issue. From there you can then identify the wildlife habitats of your area and see what varieties of animals, birds, fish and plantlife these attract. Involve the local schoolchildren in this project-they will hopefully bring a fresh enthusiasm for the wealth of wildlife in their locality. Your efforts to protect the nesting birds in relation to hedge-row trimming are highly commendable.

LANDSCAPING

Once more, a harmonious balance has been achieved regarding landscaping in the village of Ardattin. It is all too easy to fall into the trap of being over-meticulous regarding matters of aesthetics. But the village was presented in a simple way and looked well cared for without being over-fussy. The hand ball alley presented an immaculate well-balanced display. The picnic area at the junction was magnificent in its pristine presentation.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The buildings of the village of Ardattin were presented to a high standard on Adjudication Day. The "Half Way" pub looked extremely fresh in a mustard colour, although last year's adjudicator's comments regarding the projecting plastic advertising signs are quite legitimate ones.

LITTER CONTROL

The village was litter-free on Adjudication Day-not one paper or can was visible, even to the front of the school-a traditionally problem area in all towns!

TIDINESS

The initial impression created by the village of Ardattin was a neat and tidy one. However, closer inspection revealed a few minor problem areas. The petrol pump area mentioned last year is still an issue and could be upgraded with some simple sensitive landscaping. Although weed killer had obviously been applied to the kerbsides the dead weeds had yet to be removed on Adjudication Day.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Both the estate and individual properties of the town and approach roads were presented to an extremely high standard on the day. People obviously show great pride in their own properties. Beechwood Drive, with its unusual entrance area landscaping presentation including the Bulan stones, looked truly magnificent. Its efforts are a fine example to housing estates throughout the country.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The verges along approach roads and within the village itself were very neat, without being over-manicured. Items of street furniture such as flower tubs, the telephone box, litter bins and seating were all well presented. The granite walls and majestic over-hanging mature trees along the approaches to Ardattin are a marvellous asset to the village.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The charming village of Ardattin, is one that is rich in historical heritage. It nestles, as you rightly say, in the shadow of Mount Leinster and looked absolutely pristine, even on a rainy, cloudy Adjudication Day.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (12/08/96)

Ardattin is exemplary, and its achievement at every level is remarkable. Having said this, the competition from other small villages is intense, and what would be relatively small issues in a larger settlement become dominant. The Committee is aware of these, as they are identified in the report submitted. With continued effort and persuasion it is most likely that Ardattin will challenge for a top award. Congratulations to a committee and community with unflagging energy!