

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ADARE**
County : **LIMERICK**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 28-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24
Landscaping	40	35
The Built Environment	40	25
Litter Control	40	32
Tidiness	20	17
Residential Areas	30	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	300	237

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Although you did not submit a three or five year work programme, you seem to have a very clear idea of what you would like to achieve in the future for your town. Your relationship and level of communication with the relevant local statutory bodies is to be commended. However, it is important to have drawn up a professional report in order to highlight the weak areas, and identify the town's strengths in order that you may concentrate on these problem areas and promote the town's strong points. Many thanks for your comprehensive responses to the questionnaire and map both of which were most helpful on adjudication day.

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.

LANDSCAPING

Very little fault could be found in terms of landscaping in the town of Adare on adjudication day. The verges and trees of the village were all beautifully maintained. The town park looked magnificent, with its neatly cut grass, easter lilies and avenue of trees, although some litter in the form of paper cups were apparent in the water feature to the front. The temporary timber channel to the town fountain looked unfortunate, as did the litter and algae growth. The landscaped area, near the Catholic Church, looked well with its neatly cut hedges. Perhaps more could be made of the riverside area on the opposite side of the road to the park.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Both public and commercial premises of the town were presented to a high standard on the day. The courthouse looked well, as did the Augustinian abbey. The Methodist church looked quite severe in its presentation in terms of the tarmacadamed forecourt area and adjacent school with its broken window. The school was very fresh, perhaps more thought could be given to its grounds in landscaping terms, as it currently looks quite austere. The oil tank could be disguised by means of growing creeper on a trellis around it. Perhaps the concrete fence could be replaced with a stone wall or hedge. The single storey stone hall adjacent to Collins's pub was beautifully maintained, although the laneway beside was not in good order. The Post Office looked well, although the pilaster to the right of the door was quite flaky. The neo-Tudor Town Hall was also well maintained. However, the gates needed a fresh coat of paint, and the severe tarmacadamed forecourt should be softened with landscaping some way. The stone Adare Heritage Centre with a stone boundary wall, beautifully maintained grounds with an abundance of permanent planting and convenient post box, looked magnificent. The efforts to disguise the oil tank by means of growing creeper around it are coming along nicely. The Garda Station on first impressions was quite fresh. However, on closer inspection, some attention is required. The door needed painting, the windows were flaky, and some staining was visible below the limestone cills. Most of the business premises of the town were presented to a high standard on adjudication day. Lena's bar had been freshly painted, the backyard area should be screened from public view, however. O'Leary's pharmacy, P.J. Hogan's in yellow, O Coileain's with its colourful window boxes and Michelina Stackpoole Knitwear and Antiques with its typically traditional cottage garden were all very fresh. Centra had far too many window stickers, which gave it a very cluttered appearance, and O' Riordan's facade was quite flaky. The projecting fluorescent sign to Chalke's pub looks quite out of scale, and should be replaced with something more appropriate. The stone AIB building, beside the Heritage Centre was well presented and also beautifully landscaped.

LITTER CONTROL

Although it is appreciated that the town of Adare attracts a phenomenal amount of visitors, which obviously causes problems in terms of litter control, litter (papers, bottles, cans etc.) was extremely evident in this town of pristine quality. Therefore the community of Adare must be even more vigilant. Some litter was apparent to the town park's water feature, to the town fountain and rather a lot of cans and papers to the riverside area on the opposite side of the road to the park. More was evident to the kerbside in front of the Town Hall, near the school entrance, and to the verge beyond the Dunraven Arms Hotel on the Limerick road.

TIDINESS

The general impression created by the town of Adare on adjudication day was a very neat and tidy one. However, on closer inspection a few problem areas were noted. The laneway beside the Hall adjacent to Collins's looked unfortunate and some of the town's pavements could be resurfaced. Some outbuildings to the crossroads adjacent to Desmond Drive badly need re- whitewashing. Some flyposting was evident, advertising a garden fete that had taken place a month previously. This is a practice that should be discouraged. The sign to the Dunraven Arms was in bad condition and should be repainted, although the hotel itself was in good order. The perspex and aluminium telephone boxes outside the AIB were rather badly stained.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard in this category was as high as expected. The charming houses with the high roofs and dormer windows diagonally opposite the school looked very fresh, although one or two could be freshened up. It is essential that original doors and windows be retained. The gardens looked magnificent, especially that with the unusual tiered topiary. The cottages opposite the health centre were admired especially the one in a mustard colour. The beautifully maintained thatched cottage in a yellow colour, with a hedge backed stone wall to the front looked magnificent. The world-famous thatched cottages, with their traditional simple cottage gardens, looked as well as expected-one in the process of being re-thatched was causing tremendous excitement amongst the tourists! The cottages opposite the Methodist Church and the adjacent new houses were very fresh. The private open space, screened from the road by a stone wall gives a marvellous sense of privacy. However, the timber fence between these and the hall was in bad condition. Some magnificent gardens on the Killarney road were admired.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The standard in this category was quite good. The Limerick road with its attractive Gothic gate lodge and entrance to Adare Manor Hotel was well maintained with splendid stone walls. However, the abundant signs give a rather cluttered impression. Some weeds were noted to the base of the stone boundary wall to the Manor Golf Club. The verges in the town itself were neatly cut without being "too neat", and the delightful large old trees overhanging the road looked quite majestic. The immaculately maintained grass verges opposite the school put this adjudicator in mind of a billiard table! However, the children "crossing signs" are beginning to be obscured. The Killarney/Rathkeale road looked well, although a patch of uncut grass outside one bungalow was in stark contrast to the rest of the neat attractive presentation. The colourful planting to the Carrabawn guest House was admired. The presentation of the Manor Farm Machinery could be improved upon. The dead weeds to the base of stone wall, the base of the plinth to the chainlink fence and, indeed the building itself, created a bad impression. The adjudicator was pleased to note the retention of the charming old milestone on this road.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The town of Adare looked as magnificent as expected on a sunny June afternoon. The general impression created was of an absolutely pristine appearance, although some problem areas are obviously associated with this, as the trouble spots become even more apparent.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (03/08/96)

The second adjudicator concurs with the comments of the first and adds that B&B and other signs have proliferated in the village centre as much as on the outskirts, giving an untidy effect which detracts somewhat from the otherwise superb overall appearance of the village. (The difficulty is the obvious one of commercialisation versus amenity value - a compromise has to be found). There was considerable litter on second adjudication day on the Curragh Chase road and around the T-junction in the village centre. However, the rest of the village was very spruce indeed and the Curragh Chase and Askeaton roads much tidier than they were when this adjudicator was in Adare two years ago. The successful completion of public works has made a huge improvement and the new Heritage Centre, with its discreet car-park and excellent landscaping, is a real asset. Heartiest congratulations to the members of the Association for their first-class work throughout.