

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **ARDAGH-LIMERICK**  
County : **LIMERICK**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 22-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14
Landscaping	40	25
The Built Environment	40	23
Litter Control	40	20
Tidiness	20	9
Residential Areas	30	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22
General Impression	10	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>165</b>

## 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 both FAS and Limerick County Council are to be commended. Many thanks for your comprehensive responses to the questionnaire and the very clear detailed map which was most helpful on adjudication day.

### WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The hedgerows (on the Newcastlewest road in particular) were a riot of colour - bursting with a profusion of wild flowers such as hazel bushes, wild climbing roses and bog irises. The bog irises in the field adjacent to the bridge were particularly stunning. 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

The standard in this category was particularly high. Of particular note was the village pump with its very attractive stone plinth surround and colourful planted bed with timber kerbing and timber planter in front. The new stone walling throughout the village particularly that opposite O'Connell's pub will be a great asset to the town for future generations. The colourful tubs adjacent to the latter were particularly admired. Those walls in progress at the Foynes road junction should be most attractive when completed - work was in progress and indeed well underway on adjudication day. The colourful flowerbed opposite looked magnificent. The graveyard was well maintained. Your plan regarding the camouflaging of the water tower is an excellent one. Good luck with your future endeavours - your success to date in this regard will stand to you!

### THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The town's public buildings generally looked very well on the day. The gates to the church appeared to be quite rusty and the railings should be freshened up. However the new trees planted to the front and to the forecourt area looked very well. The hall was quite fresh, although the tarmacadamed forecourt area looked quite bare and some weeding is necessary to the side area. The Post Office looked reasonably fresh, as did the pebble-dashed school with its beautifully maintained grounds. However some litter was evident to the base of the boundary wall to the latter. What appeared to be the ESB substation beside the hall was admired for its charm. Some of the town's commercial buildings looked to be quite "tired" on adjudication day. For example, Curley's lounge bar needed freshening up, and the Spar next door had closed down. The other fetchingly sharp yellow pub, appeared to be quite grubby at the base. P.W Barrett's is an attractive traditional front with lovely hanging baskets and would benefit from a fresh coat of paint before next year. The signage to Denis Greaney's should be replaced with a more appropriate timber one. Co-op superstores looked neat, if a little bare, with its fresh timber fence to front. The colourful display of snapdragons at the Maxol station looked quite lovely. Of particular architectural merit are the two stone pubs - O'Connell's with its dark green plastered plinth and reveals to the windows, and that beside the church, with its recessed statue and red geraniums in the window-boxes both of which were neatly presented.

### LITTER CONTROL

The standard of litter control on adjudication day could have been better, quite a lot was apparent throughout the town-centre. Some papers were seen along Main Street, opposite the church, and at the

bridge. More litter was noted at O'Connor Park and near the junction of this road with the Foynes road and also along the Carrickerry road.

#### TIDINESS

The town generally looked very neat and well presented on the day. However, attention should be given to weed-control, and to the screening of untidy backyard areas when considering the overall presentation of the town. Some weeding was necessary on the Rathkeale road, to the base of Telecom's boundary wall, outside the school and to the new footpath further along this same road. A couple of untidy yard areas created a bad impression, particularly one which had a bare concrete block boundary wall topped with barbed wire. A wall at the junction of Main Street and the road to the hall looked to be in need of a good hosing down!

#### RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard in this category was reasonably high on adjudication day, although the boundary walls to some houses needed attention - for example the boundary wall to some outbuildings on the Rathkeale road required painting. The derelict/abandoned cottage opposite the church creates a bad impression. Two houses which came in for particular admiration was that on the Newcastlewest road with the magnificent garden of pristine lawns and roses and the yellow brick house filled with a colourful and scented display of sweet williams, extending to the roadside.

#### ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The roads and streets of the town were neatly presented on the day. The Rathkeale road with the stone crenellated surrounds to its circular flower beds and well cut verges looked very neat and tidy. The Newcastlewest road was also neat in its presentation, with magnificent yellow bog irises and colourful flowers at the base of the unfortunately grubby town nameplate sign! The Carrickerry road was quite potholed, although the hedgerows were neatly cut back. The FAS sponsored work on the Foynes road looked magnificent with its crenellated stone flower beds of marigolds and new trees sitting on the open space. The school road looked neat with its stone faced flower beds and spotless speed limit sign. The road signs in the town itself needed some attention as they were very grubby.

#### GENERAL IMPRESSION

Great efforts had obviously been made by the community in general to present the town to its best advantage on adjudication day. Try to ensure that back areas and yard areas are not neglected when preparing for next years competition. Congratulations to all concerned.