

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ARDPATRICK**
County : **LIMERICK**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 17-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20
Landscaping	40	31
The Built Environment	40	28
Litter Control	40	32
Tidiness	20	13
Residential Areas	30	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	300	216

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Although you did not present a three or five year work plan, you would appear to have a distinct idea of what you would like to accomplish in the future for Ardpatrik. Your relationship and level of communication with the relevant local statutory bodies is to be commended. However, it is important to formulate a professional programme in order to identify the weak areas, and stress the town's strengths in order that you may focus on these problem areas and advance the town's strong points. Many thanks for your comprehensive responses to the questionnaire and map which were both invaluable on Adjudication Day.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Maybe the best approach to this topic of wildlife/natural amenities would be to approach your local environmental groups and experts who could advise and assist you with the information you need to tackle this extensive area. From there you can then identify the wildlife habitats of your locale and establish what varieties of wildlife (animals, birds, fish and plantlife) these attract. Include the local schoolchildren in this project - they will hopefully bring a fresh enthusiasm for the abundance of wildlife in their local environs. It was felt that perhaps more could be made of the Glen Stream area in terms of landscaping/development as it is an invaluable asset to the village. Possibly it is in private ownership? The noisy rookery was very evident on adjudication day!

LANDSCAPING

The standard in this category was very high indeed! Common/public areas throughout the village were beautifully maintained. The yellow and black pump was admired for the simplicity of its presentation. The display of farm machinery on the grassy bank to a stone wall base and gravelled pathway at the Greenwood Inn looked magnificent. Bishop Murphy Park was exquisitely pristine. It was very colourful with a vibrant display of red hot pokers, pansies, orange wallflowers and an abundance of permanent planting, with silver birches as a backdrop to the statue. Even the flagposts were brightly painted in silver! The picnic benches either side and the gravelled areas were all immaculately maintained. As was the extremely level gravelled carpark area between the park and the Community Hall. Perhaps the chainlink fence to the park could eventually be replaced with a stone wall or hedge, to give a more solid permanent impression. Yet another incidental space at the corner nearby was delightful.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Both the commercial and public premises of Ardpatrik looked immaculate on adjudication day. The Greenwood Inn and shop were very fresh indeed. The Sunnyvale Inn could be freshened up a little before next year's competition. The old mill/warehouse behind should be restored to its former glory. The church was also very fresh with beautifully manicured grounds. The school was well presented with colourful window boxes to all the classroom windows. Some weeds were noted to the base of the boundary wall. The wall itself was fresh but for some cracks to the coping. The Community Centre was well maintained. Perhaps the oil tank in its very prominent position could be successfully camouflaged by planting some creeper on a trellis? The simply presented Post Office was also very fresh.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control in Ardpatrik on adjudication day was absolutely superb. No litter was to be seen - even in the vicinity of the school.

TIDINESS

The standard in this category was also very high, with only a few minor problems noted. The abandoned outbuilding opposite the nameplate sign on the Kilmallock road looks quite unfortunate. The petrol station

could be improved upon, while an unpainted garage to a house nearby was in stark contrast to its immaculately maintained surroundings. The creamery had yet to be demolished on the day.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The houses and gardens throughout the village looked magnificent on the day. There are some exquisite gardens, and their boundary walls were generally very fresh. An attractive period house set up on a grass bank on the Kildorrery road was delightful. The garden near the Post Office with its beautifully manicured lawns and abundance of bright red poppies on display was enchanting.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The roads and streets of Ardpatrick were presented to an equally high standard. The Kilmallock road was well presented, with neatly cut verges, although they had yet to be cleared of dead grass. The retention of the charming and fresh traditional square sign is to be commended. Indeed, road signs were generally extremely fresh. The retention of the traditional telephone box with even the original glass door and side panels is also to be congratulated. The Kildorrery road also had well cut verges and a magnificent floral display. The stone restoration work on the Kilfinane road was well underway on the day. Some dead weeds and a single pot-hole were noted at a grating in front of the landscaped area beside the Greenwood Inn.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The village of Ardpatrick, set against the magnificent backdrop of lush farmland leading up to the Ballyhoura Mountains, looked charming and pristine on a fine sunny June Adjudication Day.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (04/08/96)

It is several years since this adjudicator was in Ardpatrick and it is wonderful to see how well a number of the projects which were new at the time have come into their own - particularly in planting of various kinds and in the building and restoration of stone walls. Just be careful that in your future plans the village does not become a little dainty and unnatural! - Ardpatrick's special quality lies in its rural components and suburbanisation should be avoided. Congratulations to the committee and their helpers on the fine work.