

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ARDMORE**
County : **WATERFORD**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 03-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23
Landscaping	40	22
The Built Environment	40	33
Litter Control	40	37
Tidiness	20	15
Residential Areas	30	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30
General Impression	10	9
TOTAL MARK	300	228

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Ardmore, a former National Winner has adopted itself and its entry to the new-style Tidy Towns Competition with its customary vigour. Thank you for the comprehensively completed entry form, the detailed overall development approach schedule and notes and the useful map suitably annotated.

The widespread support secured by the Committee which has enabled daily litter patrols to be undertaken and secured the services of 40 volunteers to undertake a major beach clean-up was very apparent on the day of adjudication.

The structured phased development approach is very well thought out and, having regard to the proven prowess of the Committee no doubt will be successfully implemented over the next 3 years.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

An important aspect of wildlife is the seagulls who, on the day of adjudication put on a spectacular free show of diving for fish. The undertaking of an inventory of wildlife habitats and the development of a nature and wildlife conservation programme as part of the overall development approach is strongly recommended.

The significant amenity represented by St. Declan's small church and St. Declan's Way was well signposted and suitably presented. The grounds of the Church and Round Tower were in general well presented although the area between the Church and the lower wall seemed somewhat wild and unkempt. We note and have allowed for the current restoration work in progress on the Round Tower. The GAA Park was very well presented with no litter around the entrance area. There was minor amounts of spoil outside the entrance area.

The frequent use of tubs to provide colourful floral displays is a feature of Ardmore. With the enhanced emphasis on natural amenities the Committee might examine the opportunities for ground planting rather than tubs wherever possible. Where tubs are necessary very fulsome planting is recommended for best effect. The thriving "Palm" trees were very appropriate and suitably maintained.

LANDSCAPING

Ardmore projects a delightful air of a traditional resort and the landscaping to emphasise this aspect has been skilfully developed. Even some field entrances had fine coursed stone walls. The grounds of St. Paul's Church were very well presented and the frequent random rubble walls throughout the centre, were, in general a delight. Particularly praiseworthy is the new dry-fill wall at the Health Centre. We applaud the three flag poles by the beach and were disappointed that they were flagless on the day of visit and that the fountain was not operating.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The buildings of Main Street were very well painted in a pleasing, co-ordinated way. The use of window boxes and hanging baskets adds a delightful festive feel to the presentation. The Post Office was well painted and featured splendid flower baskets.

Halla Deuglan was well painted but would benefit from floral or flag displays. Ardmore Pottery was colourful and atmospheric - the Cliff Hotel neat and tidy. The Fire Station and the Coach House caught the eye. The new combined Tourist Office and Toilet at the Quay is imaginative and very suitable. The small Cup & Saucer Cafe was bright and cheerful while Paddy Mac's Bar was also well painted and featured suitable hanging baskets. The grounds and Church overlooking the beach were very well presented.

LITTER CONTROL

The quality and intensity of the litter management was a joy to behold. Even in extensively used areas, the beach and pier area for example, were mercifully free of disfigurement. Good quality litter bins were observed to be well maintained and suitable sited throughout the centre.

TIDINESS

On the day of adjudication this category did not meet the high standards achieved in others. The amount of building and other material at the back of the Strand carpark was disappointing and if this setting is to be used on a continuous basis more attention is required for screening. The surface of the carpark was poor, potholed and inappropriate. On occasions weeds at the sides of houses need attention and on Middle Road the fine pedestrian steps were very much overgrown and consequently difficult to use. Amounts of spoil were found at the front-facing wall of the School. Some dated fly-posting was noted still in position.

There were very many positive aspects and strengths throughout the centre but we felt it appropriate to highlight these negative elements so that they could be included in the overall development approach. The treatment of a few derelict buildings by painting and disguising was well conceived and executed. The storage of timber in connection with a commercial undertaking close to the Church is questioned and perhaps an alternative solution could be found.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

We noted and allowed for the work in progress at the upper end of the Middle road. The houses of Ardmore are full of individual charm and many have interesting architectural details. Almost without exception all are presented in a splendid form, being well painted and featuring fine private gardens. A feature is the brilliant presentation of white painted front facing walls. Among individual outstanding houses are Bryon Lodge and Fuchsia Cottage.

At the terraces beside the School, rear gardens here when viewed from the Upper Road left ample room for improvement. The communal garden on the Upper road was a good start and, with more fulsome planting in time, will be a very positive and colourful addition to this area.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

All of Ardmore is very definitely "on parade" and even minor roads and streets have been presented in a very positive and suitable manner. Of particular note are the stone walls and the signage on the approach. Of particular delight is the old sign for "Ardmore Ahead Drive Slowly" which was very well presented and had a vintage feel. The sign to Youghal (R673) was somewhat obscured by high growing grass. The slip road from the Hotel towards Middle Road was a delight.

Disappointingly, some of the wall along Middle Road has collapsed or unravelled and this needs early attention. The screening on the Youghal road was very suitable and appropriate. The lay-by at the telephone was very well presented but there were disfiguring diesel stains on the ground. Tree planting and Welcome to Ardmore are a special feature of the Youghal approach.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ardmore is a delightful seaside town which has successfully utilised its rich heritage, extensive facilities and imposing location to project a delightful, cohesive centre to its many visitors. It is ideally placed because of these assets to excel again in the new-style Tidy Towns programme with its different emphasis.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (04/08/96)

The second adjudicator has pleasure in endorsing the comments of the first. Ardmore was packed with visitors on second adjudication day and there was no litter problem. The new Tourist Information Office has a jolly holiday appearance. Looking at Ardmore in an overall way, the derelict homes on the seafront should, if possible, be rebuilt in keeping with the traditional type of street houses in the locality. Some local authorities have imaginatively reinstated older houses in preference to creating new estates on the outskirts. These abandoned houses give a dead effect in what should be a lively seafront location. Congratulations to the Committee and its helpers on a first-class achievement..