

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 26-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	34
The Built Environment	40	34	34
Landscaping	40	35	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	22
Litter Control	40	34	34
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	33	33
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	242	239

Ardattin, Co. Carlow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for submitting an outline 3-5 Year Plan. It does set out clearly your objectives for the years ahead. You have great enthusiasm and enormous credit is due to your small committee of five who do such trojan work for the village. You have established a good working relationship with the County Council, Coillte and FAS and I would also suggest that you liaise with the Tourism Officer for the County who may have some useful advise to give.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Overall the buildings in the village were presented to a high standard. A new shop was under construction and when completed should enhance the village. No doubt the developer has plans to finish and landscape the area around it which will reflect the atmosphere of the village. The developer might also be encouraged to use bilingualism in the signage where appropriate and perhaps also make it user-friendly for persons with disabilities. The Church and School were presented beautifully. The wheelchair ramp did not appear to have been put in place by the day of adjudication. You are to be commended on this initiative and hopefully it will be in place by next year. The Community Hall again was well presented as was the car park opposite the Church.

LANDSCAPING

Your overall approach to landscaping is very good. The mix of trees, hedging and shrubs used is interesting and varied. The Grotto area is well maintained and beautifully presented. The granite shrub bed outside the Hall had a delightful selection of shrubs and the pump area again is receiving care and attention. Your plan to continue to plant more trees, flowers and shrubs where appropriate throughout the village is to be commended.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

It was good to note that hedges are not cut or trimmed during the nesting season. Wildlife is a new category introduced in 1996. The emphasis is on the conservation of nature and it is a new area of activity for your Tidy Towns Committee. Do not be overwhelmed, it does take time to develop. Look seriously at the bog - this is a wetland habitat and would appear to have great potential. Perhaps you should consider making contact with the Conservation Volunteers of Ireland who will be only too glad to be of help and assistance. Your County Tourism Officer will also have this information. Do involve schools and youth groups in this project.

LITTER CONTROL

Your policy of regular picking up of litter is working extremely well with only some small pieces observed on adjudication day. Involving children should help very much to achieve your litter

control. One litter bin would need replacing - it is on the pole.

TIDINESS

Overall the appearance is one of tidiness. A problem area in a few places is weed control at kerbs. This was observed in the parking bay in housing estates facing Aghade Road and in parts of the housing estate. Grass by walls in green area needs to be cut and kept tidy. The telephone booth would need to be painted and some minor repairs carried out. Do retain this type of booth rather than the new aluminium type.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Almost all individual properties were well presented throughout. The open space at the entrance to the housing estate looked splendid. Overall the choice of trees, shrubs and plants is a delight. Some boundary walls need to be painted. All the residents throughout the estate should be encouraged to help the Committee in keeping this area tidy and attractive looking.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads were all neat and tidy with the wooden signs being attractive. Almost all street furniture was well presented. It was good to note that you plan to rebuild and repair all the granite walls within the village and the outskirts over the next few years.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A lovely village which continues to be well presented. Keep up the effort which is tremendous. As indicated last year it will hopefully bring rewards sooner rather than later.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (16/08/97)

The lead-in roads to the village present a wonderfully relaxed entry sequence which is contributed to by the continuation of matching stone material in the new granite walls. This effort pays off very well. The provision of the picnic area is an incentive for visitors to stop in the village. The big tree has become a bit of a bill board which is visually distractive from the overall setting. The National School is one of the more handsomely presented schools with a very simple presentation of exceptional flower boxes both from a perspective of scale and display of colour. There is a good balance between perennial and annual displays and these work very well because of their strategic placement. Entry signs to the village are consistent and there is a strong theme of exemplary stone walls. The walls of the school and church could be integrated so as to extend the same finishes (perhaps through vegetation) along the road, though existing sightlines at the entrance of the church will require some traffic calming. There are good views over the countryside which connects the village to the surrounding landscape. Consideration should be given to the placement of some of the exotic species such as the planting of foreign plants with native trees in the hedge opposite Beechwood Drive. Overall the work by the Committee creates a very pleasant village setting.

