

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ARDFIELD**
County : **CORK**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 10-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27	25
The Built Environment	40	18	18
Landscaping	40	20	18
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	14
Litter Control	40	28	26
Tidiness	20	10	10
Residential Areas	30	19	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	18	17
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	161	151

Ardfield, Co Cork

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Congratulations on your Development Plan. This is an impressive document, and should certainly help to identify your priorities and follow them through over the next three-to-five years. The involvement of local people is encouraging, and also your contacts with the official organisations. The FAS Youth Employment Scheme should be beneficial to you and to the worker. The area for adjudication is very extensive, more resembling a parish than a village in the usual sense. This means that your efforts have to be spread over a wide area, making progress difficult.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Naturally there are a few buildings of prime architectural interest in a village such as yours, but the Church and School are beautifully kept. (A pity that when the school was being extended to the front the old stonework was not replicated). OMahonys Bar and Shop looked very smart on adjudication day. The Garage is well kept. The most interesting building is the old church or Hall, and improvements here will be eagerly anticipated - if the owner can be found. The derelict house to the south is in such a conspicuous position it catches the eye immediately; if and when it is attended to, it should be restored to its original form and not modernised; the modern improvements can be inside.

LANDSCAPING

The pump and its surroundings will look well when the ground has settled around it. Other opportunities such as this should be sought. As regards future roadside planting, trees and shrubs that are native to the locality should be preferred to beds of annuals (though annuals can have their place in window boxes, etc.).

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Try to make the most of what is appropriate to the neighbourhood. The large area of woodland planting to the north of the church is very impressive indeed, and will make its mark in a surprisingly short time. As well as becoming a wildlife habitat, it will act as a windbreak. Other major schemes such as this could be contemplated in your Development Plan. Nicely trimmed hedges were seen at suitable points.

LITTER CONTROL

There was very little disposable litter on adjudication day - congratulations.

TIDINESS

Because the area is so extensive, it is difficult that the whole area be kept completely tidy. Some lengthy roadside banks and verges were unkempt: a suburban primness is not expected, but more husbandry

of the roadsides is needed if only to give a sense of unity and show that it is all one part of a community plan. The central avenue of the graveyard was in need of weeding on adjudication day - this was mentioned last year. Ardfield is mercifully free of unsightly plastic and mass produced signs.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The many private houses are well kept. The use of stone in frontage walls is commended. A green painted house near the Church makes a splendid statement. If there is to be future housing development (e.g. by the local authority) a village style should be preferred, giving a sense of community rather than scattered housing or an outlying estate.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The remarks made by last years adjudicator on approach roads should be considered. The road across the south side of the triangle, with its overhanging boughs and verges of montbretia is most attractive and should be conserved at all costs. The open yard of OMahonys is just right. The car park at the Church is well kept.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

An attractive neighbourhood, with an obviously increasing sense of local pride. Continue to develop what is native to the place.