

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ARDGROOM VILLAGE**
County : **CORK**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 06-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	38
The Built Environment	40	31	30
Landscaping	40	29	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	14
Litter Control	40	28	28
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	19	20
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	204	200

Ardgroom, Co Cork

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for the before and after photographs which show impressive work. On your map, please be sure to mark all locations where improvements have been made during the past year, such as the painting of particular buildings, the planting of berried shrubs, etc etc. Your brief statement of intent for the next three to five years makes interesting reading; other centres which have produced a Development Plan listing objectives on a phased year-by-year basis have benefited greatly from the exercise, with resulting advances in standards: your Committee might find the same to be equally beneficial.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The remarks made by last years adjudicator on the painting of the church are reiterated here. The derelict sites in the main street, as well as the old schoolhouse, remain a problem, though the former have been temporarily disguised. The empty house opposite the Post Office has been tidied up very decently - see remarks below under Back Areas. The cement section of the Homestead premises needs attention.

LANDSCAPING

Formal planting on the village side of the church was looking well on adjudication day, nicely complementing the field on the outer side. The streamside landscaping has been most successful; this might be continued downstream of the bridge. The construction of new walls topped by flowering plants was very favourably noted as being particularly well suited to the village environment, and it is good to read that more of this is planned. Wooden fencing by the river and at the back of the church is also excellent. The hanging baskets of flowers looked splendid at the time of adjudication.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The rushy area to the right of the church should, if possible, be left in its natural condition. You might capitalise more on the splendid local features - for example, by signposting walks to scenic and archaeological sites such as the cairns, standing stones and burial grounds (this could be another item for inclusion in a Development Plan). Your active steps to encourage bird life are admirable. Some of the suggestions under this heading made in the Tidy Towns booklet might be taken into consideration.

LITTER CONTROL

Good again this year. Congratulations.

TIDINESS

Weed growth was starting in the otherwise neat car park. Unpainted rusty corrugated iron roofs in three locations need attention. An

untidy and confusing proliferation of signs of varying kinds is not yet the problem which it is in some other centres, but this aspect of growth should be carefully watched, especially at the busy junction by the Post Office.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Older houses in the village centre looked very smart indeed. The purple house with windowboxes brimming with petunias and pansies was altogether remarkable. Houses on the outskirts, especially those with flowers cascading over boundary walls, gave immense pleasure.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Surfaces fair to adequate. Hedges on approach roads trim, but not over-trim, as befits a village of this kind. The back lane from the Old Road to the Kenmare Road is the only area of real disfigurement - unfinished concrete-block walls, broken stone walls, unpainted extensions, and untidy exterior storage of beer canisters, form an unsightly melange. It is encouraging to see the new stone walls at either end of this lane, and the hope is that individual householders and owners of business premises will take up the matter of improving their properties for the general good.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A village of immense charm, where much good work is evident and problems seem to be being met with determination. The challenge now will be to maintain the recent improvements to their present high standard.