

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **ADARE**  
County : **LIMERICK**  
Category : **C**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 22-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	40
The Built Environment	40	26	25
Landscaping	40	35	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	24
Litter Control	40	32	32
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	31
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>237</b>

## Adare County Limerick

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for completed questionnaire. Unfortunately there was no map which would have proved very useful to the adjudicator in identifying the main areas of interest in the village. Adare's constant high rating in the competition is not surprising given the effort that the committee have put in over the years, this year was no exception as the village was in peak condition on adjudication day. The relationship that Adare has with Limerick County Council is a big plus factor and the benefits can be seen around the village and its environs. One can see evidence of good planning in and around the village where cognisance is taken of the importance of Adare as a heritage village. It is important that a workplan be submitted next year as it gives the adjudicator some insight to future plans for the centre.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

As was the case in other years both public, commercial and private buildings were presented to a very high standard with consideration been given to access facilities for disabled persons. It was very noticeable that attention was paid to ensuring that any derelict or undeveloped sites were camouflaged in an appropriate manner. Attention to detail is one of the strong points in Adare which gives a uniformity in terms of standards which are very high. The Heritage Centre and its grounds are extremely well presented and despite the volume of people going through it is always very tidy and well run. As stated the standard of presentation of buildings was very high and the following is a cross section that appealed to this adjudicator. The AIB Bank and its surrounding area was well kept as was O'Leary's Pharmacy, Lenas Bar, Hogans and O'Coileains. The Little Heaven Coffee shop with its unique stone sign created an impression on the corner as you approach from Newcastlewest. Special mention should also be given to Black abbey Co-op who have made great efforts to keep their premises tidy, the chimney stack should be painted as it takes away from the overall effort. Adare Iron Works, Walshs Garage and forecourt, and the new building that houses Adare Fashions also deserve praise. The Church (RC) and grounds were in good condition as was the Methodist Church. The Church of Ireland (former Augustinian Abbey) was in good condition except for rusty railings. There are so many beautiful private residences, guesthouses and B&Bs that it would be impossible to mention all but there was a beautiful stone residence with wrought iron railings that appealed to this adjudicator tucked away at the entrance to Desmond Drive. The Pitch and Putt Grounds were in very good condition. This is a very pleasant facility for both locals and visitors. Adare has so many positives that it is hard to identify where the negatives are but there are a few which need to be addressed simply because they stand out in an otherwise exemplary village. The Grotto which is a main feature is in need of upgrading, railings need painting and the

place needs to be weeded. The Town Fountain needs cleaning with algae and litter accumulating also the railings need painting. The Garda station needs a bit of an uplift, a colourful pebble dash would suffice, also the pump and surrounds opposite the Methodist Church need to be painted and tidied.

## **LANDSCAPING**

As was the case last year very little fault could be found with the standard of landscaping in the town. The town park looked extremely well, neatly cut grass, colourful planting arrangements and a selection of mature trees and shrubs. Benches and fences were in need of a coat of wood preservative but other than that the park was in pristine condition. It would be remiss of me not to mention the beautiful gardens of private residences that can be seen in Adare especially those attached to the thatched cottages. The riverside area was improved upon since last year and indeed looked very well on adjudication day. What was most noticeable in Adare was the manner in which open spaces, trees and planted areas are managed.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The submission of a work plan would have made it easier for the adjudicator to tune into what the committee had in mind under this category. Adare has a number of natural habitats which attract various species of animals and birds most notable being the Town Park and the Riverbank opposite. A schools oriented project under the guidance of somebody with knowledge of local Wildlife Habitats would be beneficial and the idea should be explored.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

This year there was evidence of too much litter especially for a town of Adares standing. Adjudication day was very busy but the community and committee in Adare have to be more aware of an increasing litter problem. The stream area in the town park was a bit messy with cans and papers visible as well as debris at the manor wall end. Litter was also visible adjacent to the Dunraven Arms and at the manor entrance, in the town centre and on the outskirts on the Limerick road. I have no doubt that the committee is constantly monitoring the situation and that corrective action will be forthcoming.

## **TIDINESS**

The town was very tidy, excepting the litter problem, on a very busy day. Weed control was very good with kerbsides clean and tidy, signs were clear and visible. A few areas need attention most notably the lane and at the back of Lenas Pub and adjacent to the Vet Clinic. There are a number of house development schemes still in progress in and around the town, developers should make the effort to camouflage sites in an appropriate manner.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

As is expected each year, the standard in this category was very high with residents going to great lengths to ensure that this high standard is maintained and improved upon. Desmond Drive was

in very good condition with colourful gardens on view. The cottages opposite the Methodist Church and on the Killarney Road were, as in other years, immaculate, one cottage is presently up for sale and unfortunately the garden is slightly overrun. Deerpark Estate was neat and tidy. The green area needs to be cut. Private houses on both the Killarney and the Kildimo Roads were in excellent shape with colourful gardens, full marks to all owners. Finally the now famous thatched cottages which are a mix of business premises and private residences were a sight to behold with their exquisite cottage gardens.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

The standard in this category was very good with all approach roads neat and tidy, verges cut back and hedgerows trimmed. The Limerick Road entrance is impressive mainly because of the magnificence of the Manor wall and entrance but it is not without fault. Weeds were evident near Adare Manor Golf Club entrance and the fencing on both sides of the road around this area was badly in need of a coat of wood preservative. The Killarney Road again was impressive except for the proliferation of signs at the Ballingarry Road. The Kildimo Road with its well presented residences looked well as did the back road to Curraghchase.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Adare is seen as an example of excellence to all other towns and villages in the country and it is also held up as an example of good co-operation between committee, other community associations and public bodies. On adjudication day the fruits of this co-operative effort could be seen as the town and its surrounds looked in tip top condition.

## **SECOND ADJUDICATION (11/8/97)**

A very high set of standards was observed at second adjudication. The presence of so many trees throughout the town contributes greatly to the character of Adare. The town park was looking well but had an amount of grass cuttings remaining from the last cut. The landscaped car park at the back of the Heritage centre was lovely. Individual gardens contribute greatly to the overall vision of Adare. With the large influx of tourists Adare seems to be coping and avoiding becoming over commercialised.