

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ARDAGH-LIMERICK**
County : **LIMERICK**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 14-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	27
The Built Environment	40	26	23
Landscaping	40	26	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	14
Litter Control	40	22	20
Tidiness	20	10	9
Residential Areas	30	21	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	22
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	176	165

Ardagh, Co. Limerick

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for the completed questionnaire and detailed map. There is a very good rapport between the committee, local authority, other public service agencies and all sections of the local community. A 3/5 year plan would allow the committee to focus on the strengths and weaknesses and plan both short term and long term

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The village of Ardagh has undergone a mini-transformation since this adjudicator visited some years ago. A lot of refurbishment has taken place and the whole village is looking all the better for it. The Dairygold premises were in very good condition and are an example of a how such premises should be kept. The stonewalls and footpaths on the NCW road are an attractive addition to the infrastructure of the village. The Church was in impressive condition with nice planting arrangements. The Community Hall which has been restored also has attractive landscaping to complement it. The impressive house (parochial?) on the Foynes Road junction stood out. The following commercial premises deserve mention for the manner in which they presented their respective places of business; The Central Bar, Denis Greaney's Butcher shop, PW Barrett's, Maxol Filling Station on the outskirts with its nice tubs of flowers, and O'Connell's Pub on the corner of the junction of Newcastle West and Foynes. The Graveyard and Telecom Building were also in a very presentable state as was the National School and the GAA Grounds. There are a number of derelict buildings in the village and the committee have responded positively to this problem by encouraging owners to upgrade them.

LANDSCAPING

The standard, as was the case last year judging by the adjudicators comments, was very good. In this category one can see the benefits of good partnership between the community, local authority and other public service agencies. The quality of work undertaken in building stonewalls and putting in place landscape arrangements is top class. The green area and flower beds opposite O'Connell's Pub is an example of top class work, as are the areas near O'Connor Park and by the School and GAA Grounds. Keep up the good work. The provision of new stonewalls and the restoration of others, coupled with judicious planting, has transformed both the village centre and the approaches.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The committee have made progress in this category by providing bird tables in and around the village and by the preservation of hedgerows in the environs. There are plenty of natural wildlife habitats around Ardagh; why not enlist the support of someone who has local knowledge to help identify the species of wildlife

that exist in these habitats. A Wildlife Project could be developed as a result of this local research.

LITTER CONTROL

The committee have taken very positive steps in relation to litter control. It is good to see that local school children are being introduced to the benefits of good litter management. There was very little litter to be seen on adjudication day.

TIDINESS

The village was quite tidy except for a few derelict houses on the main street and a number of messy side areas with rusty gates. Weeds were evident at the junction of the Foynes and Athea roads. Overall the standard was good and the committee are taking on board the problems in relation to the derelict buildings.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard in this category was quite high and residents are to be commended on their efforts. The two houses on the NCW road that were singled out for mention last year were again in splendid condition with beautiful gardens that were a mass of colour. O Connor Park and the Housing Estate adjacent to the school were for the most part very well presented. Some boundary walls were a little grubby and needed to be painted.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Newcastle West Road had its verges cut back and also had the advantage of having some splendid residences on each side as one enters the village. The Foynes Road with its green area and stone flower beds was very impressive and is a fitting introduction to the village from this end. The Rathkeale Road has its margins cut and has attractive flower beds. The road signs seem to have been attended to as they were very presentable and clearly legible.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ardagh has come on immensely since this adjudicator last visited which was some years back. The efforts of sections of the community have resulted in some very fine improvements to the village and its environs. The committee are committed to improving the village's position in the competition even further in years to come. Keep up the good work.