

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **ARDEE**  
County : **LOUTH**  
Category : **D**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 29-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	34
The Built Environment	40	28	27
Landscaping	40	27	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	19
Litter Control	40	28	27
Tidiness	20	14	13
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	26
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>198</b>

## **Ardee, County Louth**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

The map and information supplied with the application form were very helpful. The Tidy Towns Association five year plan was read with great interest. Because the traffic is so heavy through Ardee it is very agreeable to concentrate much of the planning on the use of the calming riverside amenities. The plan is well focused and sets out clearly the planned progress. An annual review would be useful to reset or adjust targets as needed. Emphasis on the historical aspect of Ardee is very important. Making information available and easily understood should be a prime aim of the association. There is a need to plan traffic control through the main streets. Parking causes stress and clutter for the pedestrian and crossing the street is dangerous. The cars seem to have dominance everywhere. The "improve our town competition" is a wonderful idea.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The buildings are very well presented. Historic buildings are a great asset and lend a special character to the town. Many of the pavements are in a dangerous condition and an urgent programme is needed with results occurring faster than the current improvements that are taking place. The business premises are well tended. Looking along the shop fronts at signs protruding from the wall, there are very few above the level of the shop name and those that are detract from the streetscape. Examples such as "Flogas" "EBS" "EIRCEL AGENT" and "AIB" prove this point. The lovely painted buildings are a credit to their owners. Very good colour combinations were noted. Sometimes one building comprises more than one shop unit, in such cases it would be wise to co-ordinate the colour scheme for example - "Kinders" and "Sean Kerr Providers Ltd., The green of " Kinders" may not be the best choice of colour in the circumstances. Carriage entrances are attractive on streets. One at "Classic Choice" shop frames gives a beautiful garden view. The Car park at the Bridge and the paved area in front of the Library are a good asset.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Besides the landscaping of public places, privately owned lands either business or residential plays a very significant part of the overall appearance of Ardee. Many individual gardens are good and great encouragement should be given to improve. Why are there so few trees through the main streets? Some street trees are under pressure from traffic. In some places there are no tree guards and the trees show signs of physical damage to their stems. The landscaping in the river park is admirable . One of the most impressive trees is the huge Willow. One wonders why more trees of this type are not planted. Ash, Chestnut, Beech and Oak are all trees that should now be planted to be enjoyed by future generations. Some river side planting could also be planted using blocks of Dogwoods, Gunnera, low growing willows and Irises.

The greens are well maintained. The approach flower borders are also looking well.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The river and surrounds provides a fantastic opportunity in this regard. This is well treated and a marvellous asset to the town. Provision of a little more natural vegetation would be pleasant. The stream has a very clinical treatment with concrete enclosure. Perhaps the inclusion of rock and stones could make this more interesting providing cascades and opportunities for plant life. The approach to Chantry College is enhanced by the lovely hedge and wall. This is an ideal wildlife feature and care is needed to avoid over zealous cleaning of the hedge.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter control is a seven day week job. Sunday is a bad day for litter. Take Aways, sweet and ice cream papers are a problem. The area to the front of the Library needs attention in this regard and Hale Street had a considerable amount of litter. There are several different styles of litter bins - perhaps a more unified approach would be attractive.

### **TIDINESS**

Ardee has a tidy appearance. The traffic and parking is a real problem. Off street parking and no parking zones would be helpful. It is such a relief to walk off the main street.

### **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The housing estates are very well cared for. The Sliabh Breagh estate is very attractively presented and all the features are carefully maintained. Ferdia Park and De La Sale Crescent are also noteworthy. The importance of individuals looking after their own gardens cannot be overemphasised. These give the character of the entire estate. Large concrete containers are probably best displayed on hard surface. On grass they lose their impact. Also the larger the container the more bold the planting must be. In the estate opposite Sliabh Breagh the retention of the Thorn hedge is a great asset and this example of retaining existing hedgerows and trees within developments is wise.

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

All the approach roads to Ardee are well presented. This creates a very pleasant entry. Again individual sites play such a vital role in the appearance of approach roads. The value of grass, hedgerows and trees can really be appreciated. For moving traffic it is these aspects which give the tone to a village and the colourful flower borders are secondary.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Ardee gives a pleasant impression to the passer by. On stopping, the historic buildings give great interest and the relaxing riverside walk and areas are enjoyable. When work is completed on the surfaces around O'Deas Agri Seeds this area will provide a very attractive walkway. These off street accesses are very pleasant. A

link along the river to Dawsons bridge would be wonderful.