

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ARDFINNAN**
County : **TIPPERARY SOUTH**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 30-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	30
The Built Environment	40	24	22
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	17
Litter Control	40	22	20
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	26
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	196	183

Ardfinnan, Co Tipperary

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for the comprehensively completed entry form, supported by details of your wildlife programme and assets, schedules of work in progress, together with the most useful map. All this documentation was very helpful on the day of adjudication. Ardfinnan, straddling the River Suir, is an extremely well endowed centre with particular attributes in the landscaping and wildlife areas. Your Committee have been working very well and we applaud the progress made. Particularly praiseworthy are the delightful new signs on the major approach roads to the village. Broadly speaking the area is well presented with an appropriate emphasis on fine rubble walls, tree planting and other permanent improvements. There is a tendency to rely on tubbed flowers which are not always the optimum answer in a rural setting. Where they are used it is critical that very full planting take place so there is an overflowing, cascading effect of colour achieved.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

There is a great deal of significant building in progress and this was taken into account during adjudication. The outstanding items of the built heritage, include the superb bridge and the fine castle, commercial and public buildings, were in general well presented. The timber work at the National School needs repainting and there was a disappointing amount of spoil in the bus stop at this point. The former Church of Ireland was well presented with new windows and the surrounding wall of the cemetery was very well presented. The Credit Union office was neat but would benefit if window boxes and or hanging baskets were added. Public houses achieved a high standard in their presentation. The Church and grounds were orderly and well presented. The large buildings nearby, which appeared to be no longer operational, detracted somewhat from the over all appearance. The ancient major hill ford monument off the Clonmel road should also be included as part of your built environment and appropriate long term plans, in association with the Office of Public Works, devised for its enhanced presentation.

LANDSCAPING

The success of the various landscaping projects are a delight. The extensive grassed areas on the approach roads and especially the central square playing grounds, tennis court, access bridge to the wildlife centre, all, contribute to a very high achievement level in this regard. The very extensive landscaped and picnic areas on the approach road from Clogheen are also a delight. The display of flowers at High Brazil was exemplary. The fine floral display at the private houses adjacent to the Health Clinic were most colourful. The tree planting, well presented grass and new fencing on the right hand side after the Clonmel/Newcastle junction was very good. The newly installed rubble stoned faced flower bed at this junction will look attractive when it is adequately planted. Individual gardens throughout the centre contributed to an overall very high standard in this

category.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The extensive list of resources available to you (which itself is noted as non-exhaustive) underscores the rich diversity of your wildlife resource. The riverside area and, especially the island, offer a natural and significant bird sanctuary resource and we applaud the intention of establishing a mallard ducks colony on this or similar convenient site. The fine bridge and the River Suir and its tributaries at this point are themselves major resources. The extent of the swan population, which appears to be growing each year, is already significant. The use of display board and explanatory panels is to be applauded.

LITTER CONTROL

The range and location of litter bins throughout the centre is satisfactory. Litter was to be found in limited amounts notably in the cemetery (old Clonmel) road and, predictably enough in the shopping areas. The housing estate and particularly the extensive grassed areas were free of disfigurement in this regard.

TIDINESS

Ardfinnan is currently in a major expansion phase with substantial amounts of building taking place both in commercial buildings and private dwellings. There is sometimes a tendency, notably with private houses, to leave the entrance areas and front facing walls for completion at a far later date. Inevitably this can create a somewhat untidy situation albeit on a temporary basis. Some commercial premises seem to have overlooked for some time the completion of their entrance areas, notably Lamberts Coaches. An excellent job has been done on screening here but the entrance area should be completed. Considerable amount of spoil is to be found at the sides of roads and there are no less than three breaches in the fine random rubble wall on Cemetery Road. O'Briens Filling Station was very well presented while Mahoney's Cycle Store requires repainting. Oilbhear O Haicead Fuel Store was very well painted and attractive.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The housing stock on the Clonmel road was very well presented with excellent individual gardens. The Castle View housing estate has achieved a very high standard which is also the norm in St Finnans housing estate. Individual houses also contributed handsomely to an overall high standard. The extensive grassed areas were, without exception, very well maintained with individual floral displays adding colour to an overall excellent scene.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The entrances to Ardfinnan are a delight and all involved in these fine displays are to be complimented for their standard. Verges have been well cut back and strong, robust stone walls have been projected to the optimum degree. In some cases the 30 mph signs need to be refurbished and signage generally on the approach road could, with advantage, be examined before next years competition. The provision of raised stone wall flower beds

for the village nameplates has worked very well, especially when taken in association with the delightful new welcoming signs. Within the village itself, on some occasions, weeds have been permitted to flourish at the base of front facing walls and between the roads and pavements.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ardfinnan has achieved a high standard in this years competition. Your Committees enthusiasm, coupled with the support of the community at large, together with the excellence of your built and natural environment offers the Community an opportunity to reach the highest success in the National competition. The completion of the major building works now in progress and a sustained, structured effort by the Community over the next few years could see Ardfinnan achieving the ultimate goal. Compliments are extended to all involved in this fine entry.