

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ARDATTIN**
County : **CARLOW**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 21-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	36
The Built Environment	40	34	34
Landscaping	40	35	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	22
Litter Control	40	34	34
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	33	33
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	243	242

Ardattin, County Carlow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Ardattin is welcome to the 1998 Tidy Towns Competition. Your updated plan for 1998 – 2003 is a very useful document to submit and thank you for doing so. Again this year your considerable enthusiasm deserves a lot of credit given the small number of people involved in the committee. You have obviously established a very good relationship with all the residents and with some of the other organisations with whom you need to liaise, it is showing in your results. Although the marks are not much higher this year, it does not mean that your entry is in any way disappointing. At this level of the competition, extra marks are extremely hard earned and every mark represents a lot of effort. Continue the good work and good luck next year.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The buildings within the village were very well presented again this year, particularly the church and the school. Hopefully you will succeed in your efforts to acquire the wheelchair ramp for next year and we look forward to seeing it in place. The new building work at the building beside the pub will look very well when it is finally finished and open. It is an excellent project and we wish you good luck with it. The pub carpark looked a little bit untidy, particularly towards the rear, but this may to some extent have been due to the work taking place at the adjoining site. It is very important for any untidy details to be screened from public view. This unfortunately detracted from the good standard of presentation of the buildings in the village in general, but it is only a small matter for this year. Well done on your excellent presentation and we look forward, particularly next year to seeing the new restored little building which will commemorate the 1798 rebellion.

LANDSCAPING

Congratulations on another excellent standard of presentation throughout the village this year. The amount of work that goes into maintaining this sort of standard is to be highly commended. On the day of adjudication, there was need for some cut grass to be cleared from one end of the open space within the housing estate and some hedge cuttings also need to be cleared away. It is very important that these matters aren't overlooked at this level in the Competition. The new picnic area is a good addition to the village and is an attractive place for the travelling public to stop. An interpretive panel for tourist information is always a useful idea.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

It is good to note that the considerable amount of attention and also your aspirations to this area of the competition. The

suggestion to the new site owner that he retain the area for wildlife for the time being by not cutting the grass is most commendable as is the intention and the arrangements not to cut and trim hedges during the nesting season. It is good to see natural hedgerows around Irish villages. You have made a very good start in this category in the competition, do seek advice about further works that can be undertaken in this regard. You might consider the development of a Wildlife Garden (See Enfo sheet no. 12).

LITTER CONTROL

The village is extremely neat and tidy with hardly any evidence of rubbish to be seen. Obviously the residents and visitors to the village are co-operating with you in this matter and that is commendable. When such a good standard has been achieved, it is often very hard to sustain it, however. Ardattin succeeded in this respect. Well done!

TIDINESS

The overall standard of presentation of Ardattin is very high as regards tidiness. As mentioned last year there are one or two problem spots, being gateways or entrances and also the kerbside in front of the pub which looks a little bit messy. As stated elsewhere in the report, any mown grass or hedge cuttings should always be removed immediately. Your efforts to gain the co-operation of Telecom Eireann with regard to the repainting of the telephone kiosk are noted. Perhaps there is a possibility that they will permit you to paint it yourselves if they are unable to do so. As mentioned elsewhere the rear of the carpark did look a little bit untidy on the day of adjudication and also some of the street area in front of the Coach House which is being restored. It is accepted, of course, that construction work is in progress on this site and we look forward to its completion. Congratulations on maintaining your high standard this year.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

As was stated last year, almost all the individual properties were very well presented. New open spaces and some of the planting at the housing estate was attractive. There is scope for a little bit of improvement at the open space area where the football posts are located. One or two properties would benefit from a little extra weed clearance or perhaps some painting or maintenance work along the boundaries. But overall a very good standard this year.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads were very well presented again this year and the entrance signs were colourful and flower displays at their base are very attractive and create a good impression on approach to the village. Street furniture was found to be in very good condition and well maintained and the work for the walls within the village is highly commended. We wish you luck in your future work in this

area. Do watch out for the sporadic outbreaks of weed growth which may appear in spite of your good efforts.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The impression is very positive this year as seems to have been the case in previous years. Obviously a lot of effort from everybody goes into maintaining this high level of presentation. Continue the good work and we look forward to seeing the results of your new project next year, well done!

SECOND ADJUDICATION (13/08/98)

At this remarkably high level in the Competition, Ardattin has done very well to maintain its lovely image and also to obtain an additional mark. The village was looking particularly neat on adjudication day, and all those concerned - which must mean the whole community - deserve heartiest congratulations.