

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 08-07-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	36
The Built Environment	40	29	28
Landscaping	40	28	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	19
Litter Control	40	28	28
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	209	206

ARDEE, COUNTY LOUTH

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The comprehensive 5 year plan and map provided were most helpful in identifying all the planned projects. As previously noted, the plan sets out your objectives very clearly and a review of progress to date would be useful in keeping targets focused and allowing for any necessary adjustments. The development of the riverside amenities will be a valuable addition to the facilities on offer. The restoration of the Castle is a wonderful project and we look forward to its completion next year. There is so much of historical interest in Ardee that the provision of information boards or plaques to highlight this, must form some part of your future plans. Traffic passing through the town is extremely heavy. Is there a possibility of providing more off-street parking? The noise, dust and exhaust fumes detract from the overall atmosphere, emphasising the need for more traffic and parking planning in the town centre.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Ardee Castle has been wonderfully restored and looks very impressive. The other fortified town house and St. Mary's church are also interesting looking buildings. Most of the business premises in Ardee are well maintained, but some would benefit from painting and a general tidy up. Sean Kerr Providers/Imbue, Moods and McKeever's Pub amongst others were attractively presented. Dealg Design and the House of Mexico were also admired. The building site beside SuperValu is hopefully only a temporary situation. The new pavements being laid will considerably enhance the safety and appearance of the streets.

LANDSCAPING

The re-surfacing of Moore Hall and landscaping of the island has been attractively done. The banks of the Riverside Walk are landscaped to a high standard and provide a haven of peace away from the heavy traffic. As noted before, the planting of trees now will give much pleasure to future generations and would benefit many parts of the town. The Fair Green was looking well with the stone wall complete and flower beds providing extra colour. Hanging baskets dotted along the main streets looked very pleasant. The siting of a piece of sculpture by the riverside to mark Cuchulainn's battle with Ferdia is a lovely idea.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The whole riverside area provides a great habitat for wildlife. Natural vegetation along the banks should be maintained and encouraged. The banks on the Moore Hall side still looked a little bare. Perhaps the provision of more vegetation here could be considered. The drawings submitted in the plan for this area are

very attractive. The project to purchase Ardee Bog is an exciting one for the committee and hopefully will be successful.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control is difficult in such a busy town with a very high volume of traffic. Quite a lot of litter was noted in and on the river banks under the bridge. At least 4 traffic cones were counted in the water. A lot of broken glass and cigarette ends were scattered around the picnic area on the Riverside Walk, where the picnic table and seat had unfortunately been vandalised. This is an area where much vigilance is called for.

TIDINESS

The work taking place on the pavements along the main streets and the building site beside SuperValu detracted from the overall appearance of Ardee. As noted previously, traffic control and parking is a problem and solutions need to be looked at urgently.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

All residential areas are presented to a high standard. Ferdia Park, Cherrybrook and Slieve Breagh amongst others, show how much pride the residents take in the appearance of their own gardens and the estate as a whole. The new Cornmill Estate is an attractive development. Individual gardens have a major part to play in the appearance of their towns or villages. The well kept gardens in the estates and along approach roads add diversity and interest to the character of the town.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The main approach roads to Ardee are well maintained. However, there is a lot of disruption on the main Derry road just outside Ardee as major road works are in progress at present. Name signs and roadside flower beds are nicely presented, as are the natural hedgerows and walls of the area. The many attractive gardens on the various approach roads again contribute greatly to our impression of the town ahead.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ardee is a bustling town with much of interest to attract the visitor, but its many attractions need to be clearly highlighted. The Castle, Riverside Walk and other off street facilities are valuable amenities which will enhance the town in the years ahead.