

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ARDMORE**
County : **WATERFORD**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 09-07-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	38
The Built Environment	40	35	34
Landscaping	40	23	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	23
Litter Control	40	37	37
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	30
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	233	230

Ardmore, County Waterford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you indeed for all the information you sent with your entry form and for the map which was most useful on adjudication day. It is gratifying to note that you are receiving full support from Waterford County Council, FAS, the Community at large including your local schools, for your efforts, all of which has been reflected in the way that Ardmore has been presented. The adjudicator had not visited Ardmore for some years and was very impressed at the way it has been maintained since winning the National Award. Some areas however do need attention and will be commented on in this progress report under the various headings.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The overall appearances of the Round Tower, the two churches, School and Fire Station are being well maintained as indeed are the two hotels. Ardmore's lovely streetscape is one of the highlights of the village and a good standard is also being maintained here. However one or two commercial premises in the Main Street could certainly be improved. Comments regarding the Fountain made in last year's report are still applicable. It is a very nice feature on a small roundabout but does look somewhat insignificant. The fine Tourist Office and Public Toilets building is a very valuable addition to the village amenities but its modern appearance is somewhat out of keeping with the general ambience of the village. Perhaps a different colour scheme might help. The Amusement Arcade and its adjoining premises do need refurbishment and it is suggested that a toning down of its colour scheme will greatly enhance the appearance of that whole area. Street furniture where presented looked very well. Your 'Failte' sign was also noted.

LANDSCAPING

Ardmore was again a blaze of colour on adjudication day. Your landscaping on the Youghal road in particular looked wonderful and all concerned are to be congratulated. Continue to judiciously plant trees and flowering shrubs taking the best advice available to you. Perhaps you might consider some further tree planting in the Main Street, albeit in tubs which would have the effect of softening the landscape somewhat. As appropriate tubs, hanging baskets and window boxes give a great splash of colour to the whole village and are obviously being well maintained. Tree planting at the GAA grounds was also noted.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Your comments regarding this were noted. This is a comparatively new heading in the Competition and guidelines are laid out in the Tidy Towns booklet. Further developments under

this heading will have the effect of gaining you some additional marks.

LITTER CONTROL

The main areas of Ardmore were completely litter-free on adjudication day. However, there was evidence of some minor littering in side streets, on the beach and on the road from the Cliff Hotel to the entrance to Declan's Hermitage. Litter is an aspect of the Competition which needs constant monitoring particularly in a seaside resort.

TIDINESS

Comments made in last year's report under this heading with regard to open storage of timber are still, unfortunately, applicable. Otherwise the village was presented in a very neat and tidy manner and reflects greatly on the appreciation by all concerned on what your Committee is trying to achieve.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

All residential areas were visited and, in the main, looked extremely well. Many private residences have wonderful gardens which were in full bloom on adjudication day creating a lovely atmosphere for the whole village. Residences are being very well maintained but, in some residential estates, open spaces could look better. It is appreciated that, in inclement weather, it is very difficult to keep grass cut. The purchase of a mower has been noted in your comments. Perhaps this might facilitate the cutting of such areas on a rota-basis. The individual effort is the backbone of any Tidy Towns entry and it would appear that, in Ardmore, you are receiving the full support of the local Community. Congratulations to all concerned !

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Bear in mind that adjudication is not just confined to main streets. The adjudicator also visits side streets and back areas. In this connection your approach roads looked very well and are obviously being well maintained. Road surfaces are good. Pathways are also being well maintained. Comments made in last year's report regarding street name signs and signposting in general are still applicable. Many back areas had wonderful displays of wildflowers growing along the road which were a joy to behold.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Overall Ardmore looked very nice on adjudication day. Please do however monitor the litter situation on an on-going-basis. You will, no doubt, be conscious of a number of problem areas, some mentioned above, which will need attention and will greatly further enhance the appearance of this lovely village. There is no reason why Ardmore should not, once again, figure in the National

Awards but some further work needs to be done to achieve this.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (14/08/98)

This adjudicator, contrary to the comment of the first adjudicator, believes that the Tourist Office is quite in keeping with the general ambience of the village having cleverly captured the essence of the white-washed original buildings with thick walls. The perimeter of the car park here however could be better presented. A few sheds and side areas are still problematic and still the problem of timber storage remains. The gaiety of the street, brightly painted, is most effective and contrasts admirably with the restrained residential areas behind. The cascading fuschia over stone walls contributes much, just as the meticulously mown greens and verges, and the profusely planted open spaces.