

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ADARE**
County : **LIMERICK**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 01-07-99

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	43	42
The Built Environment	40	28	27
Landscaping	40	35	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	27	27
Litter Control	40	32	32
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	33	32
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	248	245

Adare, County Limerick

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

What a delight to visit Adare again after an adjudication absence of many years - and what changes to this beautiful village - not least the apparent continuous traffic through the main street. It is good to witness continued high standards in this village of such charm and splendour. You have done well to cope with the residential and commercial development of recent years and for the most part, the main street has retained its 19th century character. However, a deviation in any direction from the core of the village unfolds an immense amount of new buildings and with it no doubt, new challenges. The adjudicator missed the detailed map that you sent in 1998, so perhaps in future you could ensure it accompanies the entry form.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The rate of new buildings and proposed new buildings has changed the character of Adare significantly. It must be acknowledged that the standard of the newly built environment is very good and for the most part blending in well with the environs. The old buildings continue to dominate and a visit to the Augustinian Abbey (now Church of Ireland Church and School) was a singular pleasure. The inside of the Abbey Church, with its splendid stained glass windows is really excellent. The whole lay out and maintenance of this church reflects great credit on all concerned. The restorational work by the O.P.W. will further enhance the castle on the banks of the river Mague and improve the overall vista from the river bridge. The fountain cross in now a splendid landmark for the village and its restoration is commendable. The nearby dovecot, now restored some years ago is unique and indigenous to its ecclesiastical surrounds. Shopfronts in Adare are pleasant to observe and many of them are retaining their traditional features. You are not without your black spots and the Black Abbey Co-op is below standard especially the view on offer as you exit from Deerpark Housing Estate. The rusty corrugated roof mentioned last year is now costing you valuable marks. The Golf Links and accommodation development attached to the Manor Hotel is extensive and receiving excellent landscaping. The colour may be a bit bold, especially when viewed from the Woodland Housing Estate - but it may be aimed at giving it a separate identity from the Manor Hotel itself.

LANDSCAPING

This is your strong point and the extra landscaping throughout is really praiseworthy. The town park is comparable to any in the country and the mix of the old and

new planting is excellent. This is now the biggest landscaping treasure in Adare and that it is a public park, maintained superbly by Limerick County Council makes it unique. Indeed, its influence is obviously being applied to almost all other parts of Adare also and the rich display of flowers, shrubs and trees in and around the housing estates bears witness to this. The landscaped car park at the rear of the Heritage Centre is in keeping with the rest of the village - well done. Also, the welcome use of period type iron gates and railings further strengthen the traditional features of the village. The attention to detail with grass and hedge cutting is commendable and your ability to maintain your standards here is to your credit

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The splendour of the river Maigue, the great plethora of oak, beech, lime, chestnut and ash trees and the many natural habitats all combine to promote and popularise wildlife. You have opportunities beyond the norm in this regard.

LITTER CONTROL

Despite the great movement of people in large numbers and the local and tourism influx of trading, you have done well to maintain your litter control in and around Adare. The absence of litter in the main street is to everybody's credit. Some of the approach roads and the small car park on the railway road did have small amounts of litter but in general, litter control is excellent.

TIDINESS

Any untidiness in evidence relates to current buildings, a couple of derelict sites on the Carraghchase Road and the couple of black spots already mentioned. Weed control is good throughout and the approach roads are well presented. The two principal approaches are richly endowed with a good mix and a good balance of trees and grassed areas. The view leaving the village towards Rathkeale is superb, and offers some excellent tree planting, with well kept grassed area.

RESIDENTIAL AREA

The rapid pace of house building has been well matched by appropriate front and rear garden developments and almost all housing estates are attractively embellished with well presented flower gardens. A good example is the development of Deerpark, where residents have responded to core village developments, by developing their own houses with attractive flower and shrub displays. New houses on the various approach roads and the various estates adjacent to the village centre are well presented

and offer a good image for the many tourists availing of accommodation.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The village is forever interesting and the many stone developments which often need close scrutiny add to the interest of Adare. The 'Washing Area' at the village centre is well developed and the many monuments in and around the village encourage visitors to use the side and rear entrances more than normal. Many of the heretofore inaccessible back areas are now exposing new views and this will call for greater vigilance from developers and property owners. In general you are coping well. Rear and back areas now form part of the core adjudication.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The village looked extremely well on a mild July day with full bloomage very much in evidence. You are coping well with excessive traffic and the high standard of landscaping, streetscape and buildings are to your credit. It is good to witness public access along the river walk as this will now provide an additional amenity for the many visitors to this attractive village - good luck for future years.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (11/08/99)

The Heritage Town of Adare looked well on adjudication day. Landscaped areas throughout the village looked extremely well - in particular the green space with its mature lime trees on the Limerick side of the town. Indeed the mature trees on the Killarney side also create a serene and elegant approach. Litter control was a problem on second adjudication day. Quite a few papers were evident along each of the approach roads - in particular papers and cans strewn beneath the trees along the Killarney Road and quite a lot of papers and cans by the village nameplate on this side of the town. A light scattering was evident throughout the village in particular by the junction of the road at the Statoil station. Weed control could also have been better, weeds were evident in a prominent location to the base of the common boundary wall of the cottages opposite the Statoil station. Public and commercial premises throughout the town were extremely well maintained in particular the school and grounds. The Curraghchase Road as mentioned by the first adjudicator appears quite neglected. The tin shed and gable to the Black Abbey Co-op looked quite scruffy and unfortunate. However, road works appeared to be in progress to this road on the day. Residential properties throughout the town and indeed along approach roads are beautifully maintained and a credit to all concerned.