

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **ARDAGH-LIMERICK**  
County : **LIMERICK**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 28-09-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	30
The Built Environment	40	27	27
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	21	22
Tidiness	20	11	10
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	23
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>182</b>

## **Ardagh, County Limerick**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for returning the completed entry form. You have much evidence of good tidy towns activity and the work of previous years continues to bear fruit. You do not say if you are working to an agreed plan, if not, you should list a number of items that need attention and try and tackle them over a period. Ideally, you should have a vision for Ardagh over the next three to five years. As mentioned last year, the village differs from the norm and the great deal of fast moving traffic does not help the tranquility of Ardagh.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

There is evidence of good individual effort here, but the overall impression is one of sporadic rather than co-ordinated effort. A plan for village renewal and improvement would chart the way forward. The church and school look well again this year and the hall is well presented and offering a beneficial service to locals. You should be making more of the Heritage Centre and highlight the local importance of the Ardagh Chalice, which is well illustrated in the centre. Is there any progress on highlighting the ringfort where the chalice was found? There is also much evidence of attractive stone houses near Cahermoyle House and these should be presented to a high standard.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Tree planting is good and the work of Fás is most commendable. This area is good for trees and you should plant further - the woodland fronting Cahermoyle House is superb and represents a legacy from previous generations. You have a problem with boundary walls and many are below acceptable standard. Also, farm gates, which can be a feature should be freshly painted with bright colouring. You have a number of small open spaces that could be landscaped and this would help the integration of the village. The flower tubs and stone wall opposite O'Connells are excellent.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

In the absence of a village green you need to create more neutral areas and plant them. Attention to hedgerows is also important for wildlife. You might consider a wildflower meadow which is being done in many centres. With proper seeding such a spectacle can be quite colourful.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

There are pockets of litter in and around the village. In some cases where grass has been cut the litter has not been collected and is now unsightly. Litter on approach roads is a problem but in the village centre, litter control was good.

## **TIDINESS**

Your problems here relate to dereliction, unoccupied houses, and neglected open spaces. As a committee you can only encourage owners to present their property to an acceptable standard.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

This is one of your strong points and in general houses were well kept and presented to a high standard. O'Connor Park looked well again this year.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

Your efforts with stone walls is praiseworthy and in keeping with much of the surrounds. You have an above average number of entry points to the village so your approach roads are important. The village lacks entry signs and you should contact the County Council regarding same. Your signage is not standard in size or presentation. Why are you erecting signs in English only i.e Golf Club, Heritage Centre, Leisure Centre. Bilingual signage now forms an integral part of tidy towns.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

It was a pleasure to visit Ardagh and witness the great voluntary energy about. The village has much to offer historically and is endowed with some attractive features, and fine buildings of national historical significance. Well done on a good effort this year.