

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ATHEA VILLAGE**
County : **LIMERICK**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 20-06-99

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	34
The Built Environment	40	30	30
Landscaping	40	32	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	26
Litter Control	40	31	30
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	32
General Impression	10	7	8
TOTAL MARK	300	230	229

Athea, County Limerick

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for submitting an excellent three to five year work programme. Your ability to plan so far ahead reflects well on your Committee's pledge to Tidy Towns. Your strong point is in your approach roads and the planting of previous years is now bearing good results. The view of the village from the elevated site provided by the Rathkeale approach is dramatic and offers a vista with little equal in the country. The approach from Glin, used by this adjudicator, is very well presented and the display of flowers opposite Synans Gate is praiseworthy.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Public buildings looked well again this year. The garage forecourt is quite untidy and needs attention. The forecourt of Kerry Co-Op is a bit of a let down and is holding your marks down in this section. It must be said that business/commercial premises need to match the community action in raising the general standard of any centre. Though the school looked well and was litter free, the prefabs would benefit from painting. The ESSO filling station is well presented. The Con Colbert Memorial Hall is attractive, but is not enhanced by the Coca Cola dispenser outside.

LANDSCAPING

This is one of your strong points and the tree/shrub planting programme is excellent. The area is ideal for flowers and shrubs and you should aim to have the village core a bright colour with fresh painting and an abundance of flowers.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

You have good opportunity to promote and popularise wildlife because of the river, which offers an ideal habitat. You need to make more of the river. The river adjacent to the village core is also an added advantage and gives you scope for improvement.

LITTER CONTROL

The main street was well presented and litter does not seem to be a problem here. In general, the village seems to have good litter control with an adequate amount of litter bins.

TIDINESS

You have a problem with rusty corrugated roofs in need of attention. These will need attention if you are to raise your marks. The longer you leave them unpainted the more obvious they will become. Other areas causing untidiness are due to dereliction and unattended open spaces together with those mentioned under the 'the built environment' section.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard here is good. Many of the village houses have attractive traditional features and these should be highlighted. It has to be said that the village core does not equal the approach road's standard. The Ahearne Monument is unique, but the environs could be improved. The adjacent park is attractive, but it too has potential for improved standards. The Gables are well presented.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

You are tackling this section well and many side entrances are presented to a high standard. You need to do more with the Bridge - although its narrowness is a constraint. Some centres are now making a feature of river bridges (e.g. Ennis Town) and there may be scope here for improved presentation. Is there any progress on a river walk.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

You have maintained your standard but now that you are in a high league you will need to give greater attention to detail. Athea has been a good scorer down through the years, but you have potential for much improvement. Your five year plan is excellent and deserving of full implementation over a period. Good luck for next year.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (09/08/99)

The Failte go Ath na Sliabhe signs depicting the legendary giant are most welcoming. The odd paper on the Glin Road beneath the stone beds filled with nasturtiums created an unfortunate impression. The directional signs on the Glin/Abbeyfeale/Limerick Road appeared quite grubby. However, the traditional square sign was admired. The wire fence to the tennis courts by the Con Colbert Memorial Hall will need to be replaced fairly soon. The Giant's Garden looked attractive, however, more bottles and papers were evident to the roadside below. Papers were also apparent along the Abbeyfeale Road. Mullanes is an attractive traditional shop front – however its windows have unfortunately been replaced on the upper level. The Garda station and quaint Carnegie Library were both quite fresh. The tin sheds mentioned by the first adjudicator behind Con Colbert Street should be freshened up before next year's

competition. Weeds were evident to the kerbside on the Abbeyfeale Road. Curved canopies and plastic signs should be discouraged and replaced with more traditional fabric awnings and timber signage. Fly posting is also a nuisance, which should be discouraged. The magnificent church set back from the main street with its railings maintaining the street lines and Brownes appeared very fresh in its prominent position at the top of the town.