

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ARDATTIN**
County : **CARLOW**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 22-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	37
The Built Environment	40	35	34
Landscaping	40	35	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	22
Litter Control	40	35	35
Tidiness	20	15	16
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	33
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	244	244

Ardattin, County Carlow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your notes which accompanied your entry form. The history which you wrote about was most interesting. Please keep us informed if the Tidy Towns Competition has started in Malta. You are a very hardworking committee and succeed in presenting the village in a good light. You continue to do great work and it is good to see that you are planning for the years ahead. No doubt the community appreciates all the hard work being done by you.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The public buildings are very well maintained. These include the church and the school which are presented to a high standard. I note that you have plans to paint the Community Hall. The pump is a lovely feature. The pub is presented to a good standard as well. Your plans to strip the concrete plaster off the wall around the coach house is to be welcomed. The restored coach house and the grotto continue to be well maintained.

LANDSCAPING

The continued maintenance of planted areas and open green spaces is necessary. Some nice planting was observed by the wall down from the school which had a lovely selection of shrubs. The rockery bed at the entrance to Beechwood Drive again had some lovely plants in it, but needed weeding. The open spaces in Beechwood Drive needed to be tidied up and the grass to be cut. Some areas were cut. The new lawn sown in the church grounds is coming on well at this stage. It will be important to landscape the entrance to the sports field and I note that the planting of trees and a granite entrance is being planned for this field next year. I note that your village is also an entrant in Carlow's Floral Pride competition, and good luck with this.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

You have an important role to play in increasing appreciation of wildlife in your community. You have already indicated that you are taking care of the hedgerows but I would also suggest that you look at other areas such as the graveyard and the church grounds. Talk to somebody locally who has an expertise in this field. They will be glad to give you whatever help and assistance they can. Additional guidance is available from the Conservation Volunteers of Ireland. They have a very helpful leaflet which will help you

to get started.

LITTER CONTROL

Overall control of litter in your village is very good. I note that you have drawn up a partnership with the County Council in getting a Litter Control Management Plan into action. You will find this extremely helpful to you in your efforts to control litter. I note that you are vigilant and have a constant routine to pick up any litter. There was some litter at the cul de sac wall in the housing estate and also some pieces on the green.

TIDINESS

There was no fly-posting or graffiti evident in the village. Kerbs in the village area were weed free and tidy. However, they need attention in the Beechwood housing estate. Encourage individual property owners to control weed growth on the kerbs outside their own doors and also on a co-ordinated bases throughout the estate.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Most properties are presented very well and the residents take pride in how their properties look. New houses, no doubt, will landscape their gardens to a high standard. Most of the properties in the Beechwood housing estate look very good but some boundary walls need painting. The resident's contribution to having the village tidy is very important.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The road surfaces throughout are very good and the signposting is clean and in good condition. The approach roads are well maintained and the stone walls weed free and clean.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Your efforts in keeping this village tidy are, again this year, very good and should improve the presentation still further. One does look forward to more progress being made over the coming years when these developments have been carried out.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (01/08/00)

Ardattin was again for the most part presented to a very high standard. Nonetheless, at your level in the competition every blemish needs to be attended to. For instance the forecourt of the shop at the Clonegal junction was quite untidy and detracted from the otherwise well maintained

building. This adjudicator would prefer to see native deciduous trees throughout, without the ornamental conifers. Commendably, litter again was under control. The roadsides have been well maintained apart from the Clonegal road which was quite overgrown. The composition of the mature tree with the stone sign beneath at the Clonegal junction creates a wonderful punctuation mark.