

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 14-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	44	43
The Built Environment	40	30	28
Landscaping	40	35	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	28	27
Litter Control	40	33	32
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	34	33
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	254	248

Adare, County Limerick

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for returning completed entry form together with village street map. The village was busy on a July day when the adjudicator arrived. The main street was a hive of shopping and site-seeing activity and car parking on the street in scarce supply. This village has been transformed in recent years between tourism, commercial and in particular housing development. The housing development, unlike other tourism areas has brought an increased permanent population. It was also refuse collection day in Adare, but this did not affect your markings as is evident under the litter section. You have potential to gain extra marks by submitting a more detailed account of your work programme. This is desirable with entries in the high league like yourselves.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The rate of house building seems endless and many new schemes are in evidence since last year. The new development off The Avenue is excellent, with appropriate "Adare" colouring. However, the wear and tear on the Avenue is now excessive and the road surface is poor and in need of surfacing. The public buildings again looked well on adjudication day and the high standard of landscaping is most praiseworthy. The hotels are excellent and The Manor Gardens are a tourist attraction on their own. This hotel complex is now the largest single entity in Adare and the recently widened and developed road structure is already accommodating a busy traffic throughput. The current conservation work on the 13th century Desmond Castle is giving you an additional enhanced tourist attraction. You should now plan to promote this fine structure and interpret accordingly. No progress on the two black spots on the Curraghchase approach. You should put pressure on Dairygold and the owner of the rusty corrugated roof to improve their appearance.

LANDSCAPING

Once again a superb display of flowers, shrubs, and trees. The plethora of hanging baskets, window boxes, street tubs and richly developed open spaces are really excellent. The whole village was a mass of colour on adjudication day – even the footpath on the Limerick approach had a rich display of flowers along the wall. As mentioned last year, the town park is unique for a village of its size. You have also preserved and highlighted the traditional features of the village and the treatment of the former washing area is most commendable.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

You are richly endowed with a splendid river that offers a haven for wildlife. The newly developed river side walk is excellent. You need to signpost this amenity and identify it as a public walk. The grass cutting here is well kept and gives easy access. You should consider publishing a free handout to highlight the vast amount of wildlife in Adare.

LITTER CONTROL

Well done on your litter control. The village had no obvious sign of litter and good use is being made of the many litter bins throughout the village. Despite the heavy wear and tear on the core of the village, the streets and footpaths were virtually litter free.

TIDINESS

You have done well in this section and the small amount of untidiness relates to undeveloped sites. One small domestic site is on the Kildimo road and should be cleared and fenced.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard of house building in and around Adare is excellent. In fairness to the developers they have taken cognisance of the history of the area and for the most part all houses blend in well with the environment. This is achieved principally by the colour scheme applied and the good quality landscaping.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The pressure of extra house building has opened up many new areas. This in turn exposes many new side and back entrances and the demand for improved presentation. Also, the development of car parks offers increased views of back and side areas. You have coped well with these developments and there is no obvious signs of dereliction or poorly attended areas.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

It was a great treat to visit Adare once again and witness such a high standard of building, landscaping and amenity development. Of course, the community remains the principal interest in all of these developments and your involvement in the current and future development remains paramount.

We wish you well in the future.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (03/08/00)

The busy town of Adare looked well cared for to its Main Street on adjudication day. However, one or two problem areas will need addressing before next year's competition. The odd weed was apparent at kerbsides on the Limerick Road and a bare weedy tarmaced forecourt area to Adare Ironworks on the Kildimo Road should be attended to. Dumping was apparent at the river and to the far side of the wall at the car park area further out this road. The odd paper was evident along the Main Street but generally litter control was good on the day. Are there enough litterbins on the Main Street? The one by the Cross looked extremely scratched and should be painted before next year's competition. In terms of this monument, the water appeared quite slimy and the timber channel distributing water from the gargoyle looks most unfortunate, as indeed does the weed growth to the monument itself. Fly posting is a practice which should be discouraged. The tin roof and side wall to a building on the Kildimo Road looked unfortunate and should be attended to before next year's competition. In terms of landscaping, the town park was extremely neat and ordered on adjudication day and the abundant hanging baskets to lamp posts were admired. The attractive cottage garden filled with red geraniums (amongst other flowers) at Adare Gallery looked quite magnificent. The limestone curbing to the new footpath looked most attractive, but the adjudicator was disappointed to note that it had been damaged in places. All in all, Adare continues to maintain a high standard of presentation in the competition.