

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 26-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	36
The Built Environment	40	30	30
Landscaping	40	33	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	24
Litter Control	40	29	31
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	32
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	231	230

Athea, County Limerick

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for the completed entry form, which was complemented by the inclusion of an excellent 3 year work programme outlining the short, medium and long-term work under selected headings. It has been a number of years since this adjudicator last visited Athea and in that intervening time many improvements have taken place. It goes without saying that the local committee is actively developing partnerships with both the local community, Limerick County Council and agencies such as West Limerick Resource Ltd. Athea has benefited from this synergy achieving high marks in the competition over the last number of years.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The 3-year work plan outlines a series of works that are being undertaken in this category; while these are very praise worthy and necessary for the overall village development there are certain basics that need to be attended to in the short term. The Church is an impressive building overlooking the centre of the village but the grounds were a little drab and need to be maintained better as both the railings and wall need to be painted. It is good to see that the Talk of The Town has improved since this adjudicator last visited the village some years back. The positioning of an advertising board in front of Brownes shop does not complement the excellent flower display. Gas drums in front of one particular shop were a little untidy and cluttered the streetscape. Public houses should make overtures to drinks companies to provide them with signs more in keeping with the rural village ethos. Mullanes shop has a well preserved traditional front also Irwins Bar is simple in design but extremely well kept. The new butchers shop, which has just been completed, has a very appealing colour scheme. The owners of the Gables have maintained their property well as it looked quite appealing on adjudication day. There were a couple of obvious examples of dereliction to be seen no doubt the Committee has plans to address this problems in the immediate future. The other public buildings such as the National School and Con Colbert Hall were well presented. Some private residences were exceptionally well kept others could do with a coat of paint at least.

Hopefully, the Committees request to the residents to re paint will not fall on deaf ears.

LANDSCAPING

This again is one of the strong points of the village for

instance the flower display in front of Collins Shop was delightful. The Giants Garden is an excellent amenity with nice features, the grass was little overgrown on the day. The shrub bed at Listons Bar needs to be weeded at least and maybe filled with bark to prevent further quick overgrowth. The flowerbeds at car park area were well presented. Overall, the standard in this category was very good and seemed to be on par with last year.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

A good deal of local research has been undertaken in this category and a number of project ideas have been put forward. It is good to see local clubs such as the Fishing Club becoming actively involved. Keep up the momentum.

LITTER CONTROL

Despite the efforts of the Committee to encourage good litter control by getting the Environmental Awareness Officer involved, the standard was quite poor for a village of Athea's calibre. Litter was evident on the outskirts and in the centre of the Village. The fact that you have plans to mobilise the schoolchildren for litter collection duties is a very positive step. It takes an ongoing awareness programme to get the message of Anti Litter to sink in.

TIDINESS

The standard in this category was a little mixed. The notice boards at Markieviez Park need to be varnished and tidied up, some litter bins were in need of painting and the committee should approach Limerick County Council on that score. There was some weed growth to be seen at a number of back entrances and there was a very overgrown area up from Mullanes. As your report rightly points out the Celtic Tiger has paid a visit to Athea judging by the amount of building that was taking place. This type of activity leads to a little untidiness but at least it is only temporary. The recycling plant has been housed in a very effective manner.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Markieviez Park is a very nice estate with mature trees, a well kept green area and premises that were well presented on the day. Full marks to local residents. There were a few very nice town houses in different parts of the village some with pleasant gardens and well-maintained boundary walls

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The progress in this category is very good and the ongoing consultations with the County Engineer will keep the needs of Athea to the forefront. All roads into the village were well

maintained especially the Glin road.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Athea has achieved a high standard in the competition and maintaining this standard can be very difficult. Getting all the local community converted to the Tidy towns cause can be difficult in itself, but if evidence is anything to go by this is slowly being achieved. The implementation of the work plan, which is very practical, will be the basis for success in the future years ahead.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (05/08/00)

The buildings of the village were generally well painted and colourful on adjudication day with some attractive floral displays. However, one or two buildings will be needing a fresh coat of paint before next year's competition. Do discourage curved plastic canopies, these should be replaced with more traditional fabric awnings. Signage could have been improved upon on the day, much was quite grubby for example the directional signs on the Abbeyfeale Road. Quite a lot of litter was still in evidence on the second adjudication day particularly at the crossroads and, as stated by the first adjudicator, litter bins were in bad condition and could be improved upon. The bare forecourt area of the Creamery looks unfortunate and would benefit greatly from landscaping - good luck with your endeavours in this regard. The adjudicators look forward to your proposals for the Town's Square – the theme of the giant's legend is an interesting one. The tennis courts adjacent to Con Colbert's Memorial Hall were quite weedy and overgrown on the day.