

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ARDAGH**
County : **LONGFORD**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 10-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	45	45
The Built Environment	40	33	33
Landscaping	40	36	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	25
Litter Control	40	36	36
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	25	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	34	33
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	258	255

Ardagh, County Longford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Ardagh is welcome to the first Tidy Towns Competition of the third millennium. Congratulations on another fine presentation, each year Ardagh is visited by the adjudicator the experience becomes more and more pleasant and interesting. You have achieved a lot for the village over the past number of years and particularly in the last year. Congratulations on a number of counts, for example on your programme to restore the old rectory on a phased basis, on the erection of new lampstandards and the proposed ducting of service cables and of course on new residential units around the village. Hopefully these will add considerably to the life of the village and give a larger number of volunteers to carry out the work and maintenance programme. Well done on organising and hosting the environmental conference and well done also in your success in the North-South Best Kept Town Award. You are to be congratulated on many counts. It is a pity that you were disappointed with your results last year, an increase of two may seem small but as you are well aware, at your stage in the competition, every extra mark is hard won. Congratulations on your steps under the 1999 local government planning and development act to have all pertinent buildings in the village listed as protected structures in the county development plan. As you rightly note, it is important to ensure that new development will complement and enhance the existing built environment of the village. The compilation of data on old place names, mass rocks, holy wells and ancient Christian sites is an excellent approach to identifying your heritage and preserving it for future generations. Your idea to mark these places with bilingual signs is excellent.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

All buildings were presented to a high standard. The Lyons property deserves special mention, it seems to have been recently painted and the choice of colour is quite outstanding. The school, old school, church, Garda Station and of course the Heritage Centre were much admired also. As you are aware, one or two buildings / outbuildings on the 'Sports Ground' road are in need of attention. We look forward to the fruits of your work on the restoration of the old rectory over the next couple of years.

LANDSCAPING

It is excellent to note your foliage recycling depot, this wonderfully complements your landscaping activities in the

village. All landscaped areas are maturing nicely and flower displays are visually appealing.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

No doubt the community park with its plethora of trees and shrubs is a haven for wildlife. Have you identified the type of wildlife found here? This might be an appropriate project. The judging under this heading is about identifying wildlife, identifying dangers, taking steps to protect and promoting awareness. Perhaps a survey could be done as a first step in this process for next year.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was excellent again this year. Your litter management plan is successful.

TIDINESS

Congratulations yet again on another fine performance under this heading, there were hardly any elements of untidiness. A number of gardens were, as yet, undeveloped but this is not being marked this year as these are too new. Some outbreaks of weed growth were noted in the carpark (nothing serious), and some stretches of roadside margin were a little eroded.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

As noted previously, congratulations on the development of new residential properties in the area. Some gardens had not yet been developed, no doubt these will soon be brought to the standard achieved by other properties in the village. Most properties were presented to the highest standard. Well done on the construction of new stone boundary walls to harmonize with the existing architectural character of the village.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Stone walls continue to be well presented and maintained and were much admired. Street furniture is also well presented. The new information sign is useful and aesthetically pleasing. Congratulations on your negotiations for the development of an overflow carpark for the Heritage Centre behind the wood.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ardagh is a beautiful village where care of your environment is of paramount importance and it leaves a lasting impression for even the most casual of visitors.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (02/08/00)

While Ardagh as usual was predominately presented to an exceptional standard there were some blemishes in peripheral areas the most notable problem area was the seemingly neglected GAA frontage. Also, several sheds and farm yards needed improvement. Litter control as ever was good - just one bottle top along by the kegs outside Lyons Bar was noted!