

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **ARDEE**  
County : **LOUTH**  
Category : **D**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 30-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	38
The Built Environment	40	30	30
Landscaping	40	30	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	20
Litter Control	40	29	28
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	26
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>214</b>

## **Ardee, County Louth**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for your entry form, detailed map, plan and accompanying documentation. The documents submitted show the far-sighted and partnership focused approach of the committee, which must be commended for its hard work and dedication. The benefits of your involvement with the local schools and businesses are apparent in the steadily improving appearance of Ardee.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The appearance of the main streets in Ardee is improving every year. The Flag Festival in progress at the time of adjudication added a festive air. Business premises are generally well presented, apart from the over use of unsuitable plastic signage on some shopfronts and a few upper stories which need to be painted. The Castle and other fortified town house are impressive features. The opening of the Castle to visitors is eagerly anticipated. The fine old shop fronts of Andersons and Hamills will hopefully be protected from the pressures of new development. It is good to see the former church on John Street has not fallen into disrepair and is being used for a new purpose with many of the internal features still intact. It is hoped that the Ardee Bread Company site and the new development on the corner of John Street will be in keeping with the character of the town. The Chantry is an interesting building, but the lane leading up to it and its immediate surrounds need to be tidied up and litter and weeds removed.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The grass had been neatly cut on the Fair Green, but the tidy appearance was marred by large amounts of litter including broken bottles and a selection of beer cans. The new trees planted here in the spring were noted. The flower beds outside St. Joseph's Hospital and in front of the Fair Green were looking wonderful. The Bridge Street carpark is very well presented with the superb new sculpture of Cúchulainn and Ferdia standing guard. Since the Táin Trail also runs through Ardee, perhaps you could highlight this theme in other ways? The extensive greens and floral displays in front of the estates on the Dublin Road are maintained to a high standard and create a very favourable impression as one enters the town on this approach. The hanging baskets all along the main streets provide an attractive splash of colour.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The Riverside Walk, (complete with rabbits), is a valuable amenity for the town and an important wildlife habitat, especially now that vegetation has been allowed to develop along the banks. Unfortunately there was quite a lot of litter in this area, which marred an otherwise lovely walk. Perhaps the walk could be signposted from Bridge Street as well as from John Street? Your plans for Ardee Bog are impressive. Details of your progress in this project should be included with next years application. It is of great importance that the last piece of raised bog in the county is preserved. This is understandably difficult given the demands for development land at present and it was noted that Ardee Celtic FC has already applied for football pitches and carparking on a section of the bog. The wildlife sanctuary at St. Marys G.F.C grounds is an excellent idea and the club must be commended on their far-sighted approach.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter control appears to be effective in the main streets but is still a problem in other areas, such as the Fair Green, the Riverside Walk and the Chantry lane. This is an area where more vigilance is needed.

## **TIDINESS**

The main streets of Ardee are quite tidy, apart from the over use of plastic signage and advertising materials on some shop fronts. Building work in a couple of locations also detracts from the tidy effect, but is only a temporary problem. Widespread littering in the greens and back areas is an issue which needs to be addressed.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

There are some very fine residences on all approaches to Ardee and the majority of townhouses and terraces are very well kept. As mentioned above, the estates on the Dublin Road; Rathgorey, Cherrybrook and Slieve Breagh, are beautifully maintained. Ferdia Park, with its eye-catching floral displays, well kept greens and seating, is a credit to its residents and would be further improved by painting of some boundary walls. Cornill Estate is an attractive newer development. Dawson Demesne and De La Salle Crescent are well presented, with new planting already making an impact.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

The main approach roads are well presented. The building of the Eastern Link Road to the new motorway is disruptive as one enters Ardee from the Dundalk Road, but work

seems to be progressing quite rapidly. The walls at The Christ the King Shrine here need to be painted. The major works on the N2/Derry road have been completed and substantial landscaping carried out. Work had started on the Ash Walk at the time of adjudication, so the completed project can hopefully be judged next year. The footpaths in the town centre are in very good condition, but re-surfacing is needed in some areas as mentioned last year. More off street parking is needed to relieve the heavy pressure from the main streets. Littering in some back areas is a problem.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Ardee is an attractive and bustling town where steady improvements have greatly enhanced its appearance over the last few years. You have a wonderful natural amenity in the river and much of historical interest for the visitor. With the continued hard work and imagination of the Tidy Towns Committee you should make great progress in the years ahead.

### **SECOND ADJUDICATION (06/08/00)**

Ardee was a pleasant place to visit during the August holiday weekend. Litter control at the Fair Green and Riverside Walk at this busy time of year was in fact an improvement on the date of the first adjudication, which is a matter for congratulation and has resulted in an increase in marking this significant and often vexing category. The committee's frustrations are well understood in matters such as delays in road surfacing and the completion of new highways; once these have been achieved, there is another major matter for the local authorities to address and that is the untidy effect caused by poles and overhead wires, especially as viewed when travelling up Main Street from the northern end. In matters of detail the Committee and the community has done very well: only one really challenging black spot was noted, and that was around The Chantry – there is a wonderful opportunity for an imaginatively planted recreational area here. To end on a very positive note, Ferdia Park must surely be one of the best kept local authority estates in the country, and the recent Cuchulain & Ferdia sculpture is a conspicuously impressive visual reference to the vibrant mythology of this historic neighbourhood.