

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ARDMORE**
County : **WATERFORD**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 15-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	43	40
The Built Environment	40	35	35
Landscaping	40	25	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	23
Litter Control	40	37	37
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	31
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	243	239

Ardmore, County Waterford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The upkeep of the village and its surroundings has been well sustained – quite an achievement in itself. The 1997 map provided did not suggest a forward-looking approach, especially as no new initiatives were marked on it. This was something of a disappointment. An update on the progress of your 3-year Development Plan would have been appreciated.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The principal buildings were looking remarkably fine on the date of adjudication, with only minor exceptions. The two churches are well looked after. The Health Centre certainly lives up to its name for cleanliness. It is a pity that visitors can not mount to the viewing platform on the Tourist Office – a building of striking design which is maintained to a high standard. Beachcomber's Restaurant appeared to be vacant – it is to be hoped that this will not become a derelict site. The derelict houses nearby look even less prepossessing this year due to weed growth. The boundary wall of the Tower Hotel needed painting, but the appearance of the building itself was pristine. The Round Tower and ecclesiastical remains are a point of perennial interest, as always well kept without prettification. The range of stone buildings across the road were undergoing redevelopment on the date of the visit – a scheme which looked promising.

LANDSCAPING

The garden near the Tourist Office, and especially the rose beds, form a most attractive and well-nurtured centrepiece to this busy area. It is a huge pity that the nearby stream, which at one time was charmingly planted, now looks more like an open field-drain, probably due to housing development nearby; an explanation of what has happened, and what measures will be taken to reinstate the amenity, would have been welcomed with your entry form. A decline in marking was in order under the above heading, but fortunately the initiative of the Millennium Bed and Alpine Bed has restored the mark to last year's high level.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The beach is a wonderful amenity, and is kept clean, in its natural state. It was good to see wild flowers undisturbed on many roadsides as well as at the back of the beach and on the cliff walks. It is not clear why you have crossed out the

heading 'Wildlife' on the entry form; it would be useful to know if the suggestions made by last year's adjudicator are being taken into consideration in this important category.

LITTER CONTROL

This was good, though there was some disposable litter at the estates on the Youghal road.

TIDINESS

Derelict buildings have been referred to above, especially in relation to weed growth. The general impression, however, is of a tidy village, well looked after by individual householders and owners of business premises.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There is a preponderance of really charmingly presented private houses, their gardens adding to the pleasing picture. Lovely cottages were noted high above the harbour. Not all the frontages and boundaries at Grove Terrace and the terrace above it were of the standard of the majority, and there is one unsightly entrance. New bungalows near the Health Centre are promising.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Road and pavement surfaces are good. The two main approach roads are well maintained, with trim verges but not to an over-zealous extent: there is a distinct feeling, when arriving in Ardmore, that one is coming to a very special place. The car parks at the Tourist Office, the Cliff Hotel and the National School were all free of litter and weed at the time of adjudication. The WC at the Tourist Office is exemplary. Conservation of old stone walls is admirable. The standard achieved under this heading in previous years has certainly been maintained.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A very charming busy seaside village, where much hard work continues annually to keep the natural and man-made environment in good order.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (10/08/00)

Ardmore looked superb on the day of second adjudication. The village itself was very clean and the beach and general waterfront area was litter free as well as the main streets. Approach roads were nicely presented also and landscaping has been maintained to its usual high standard. The Millennium Flowerbed noted in your application could not be found by either adjudicator, perhaps this can be

clearly highlighted for next year's competition. It is hoped that the new residential development of holiday homes (Carrig Dubh) will enhance the life of the village. The sports grounds looked well; be vigilant regarding weed growth at the entrance. The derelict petrol pumps on the main street have yet to be refurbished or at least masked and, of course, some stretches of footpath still need to be upgraded. Trees could be planted on the wide stretch of footpath at Halla Deuglán and continued where width allows towards the crossroads. However do choose an indigenous species rather than a Cordyline. The new signs at the Fire Station and the public toilet look well; the metal gates at the latter are worth refurbishing. Congratulations on the development of the new pier and on your magnificent sculpture celebrating Ardmore's heritage. We look forward to the completion of both projects for next year's adjudication. Well done on an impressive presentation this year.