

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ARDFIELD**
County : **CORK**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 16-06-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	29
The Built Environment	40	30	22
Landscaping	40	30	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	37	31
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	15	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	23
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	205	185

Ardfield, County Cork

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Many thanks to Ardfield Tidy Towns Committee for their very thorough A3 presentation format of their five-year action plan. This document is extremely clear and shows the projects at the “before” and “after” stages. You have also indicated the work that has been progressed in the previous year. Many thanks for your clearly highlighted map which aided adjudication.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The standard in this category of the competition was quite good. The graveyard wall had been painted and the charming church was presented to a high standard. Perhaps the notice board at the crossroads could be moved to an area which would give its readers more safety, such as adjacent to the church or the tennis courts. The GAA Clubhouse had been freshly painted and the school was well maintained. The old stone building at the Ardfield sign and junction of the Red Strand approach is a charming one and should be restored to its former glory. This is also true of the old Church Hall – your problems in relation to the insurance and improvement of this area were noted and appreciated. Work is also needed to the adjacent handball alley.

LANDSCAPING

The old pump had been restored and simply presented - this area was admired, as was the other pump with restored tank water feature with its backdrop of fuchsia and foreground of foxgloves on the Clonakilty Road. The area in the vicinity of the map indicating the history of the general area was well maintained. The grassy bank and charming picnic area with abundant new trees adjacent to the tennis courts were well maintained (as indeed were the courts themselves). The attractive landscaping to the front of Mountain common, Farm looked extremely well, as did the attractive picnic area opposite the shop.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Ardfield is fortunate in relation to the abundance of wild flowers that are evident in its hedgerows. These include montbretia, fuchsia, foxgloves, ferns and yellow bog irises. The adjudicator was pleased to note the planting of new trees in the wildlife area. Bees nesting in the old hall are another charming aspect of this category within the village.

LITTER CONTROL

The standard of litter control on the day was extremely good, with the roads being virtually litter free. Perhaps you could consider installing more litter bins throughout the village, as

there seemed to be rather a lack of them on adjudication day.

TIDINESS

Do discourage the practice of fly-posting as it can give approach roads a rather cluttered appearance. Although the wall to the GAA grounds was fresh, the wire fence with concrete posts should be replaced as it is looking quite neglected at the moment and sported dead weeds at its base. It could be replaced with a hedge of indigenous variety such as beech or hawthorn or perhaps a stone wall - even a new fence would be an improvement! Weeds were also noted to the base of the low stone wall by the tennis courts. The old shed on the road leading from the church down to the Red Strand looked quite unfortunate and should perhaps be removed.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard in this category of the competition could have been better. Quite a few grubby houses and neglected boundary walls were apparent on the approach roads. The attractive and charming stone house on the road to the well was admired. The adjudicator noted the large number of new houses on the road leading from the church to Red Strand Cross certainly more people are coming to live in the area!

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

On the Clonakilty Road the grass had been cut but dead grass had yet to be removed – this road had been cut to a higher standard further in. The Red Strand / Galley Head Road sported montbretia, fuchsia, ferns and hawthorns. The road to St. James' Well was quite overgrown. The road leading to the church from Red Strand Cross – at the back of O'Mahony's shop was extremely well maintained and sported some unusual ferns and abundance of montbretia.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ardfield is an attractive center with its close proximity to the sea. It is progressing steadily in the competition.