

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ARDGROOM VILLAGE**
County : **CORK**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 06-07-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	39
The Built Environment	40	34	32
Landscaping	40	30	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	19
Litter Control	40	35	33
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	25	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	19	19
General Impression	10	8	7
TOTAL MARK	300	222	216

Ardgroom, Co. Cork

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The adjudicator is very concerned to note that a Tidy Towns Work Programme or Plan was not submitted with the entry documentation.

Progress in the competition will be dependent on everyone working towards the same ends. With this in mind you must prepare a "3 /5 Year rolling Tidy Towns Work Programme". This programme should have the support of the community, local groups other agencies and the County Council. It would therefore guide you Tidy Towns actions for the next three to five years. The Work Programme will detail the Tidy Towns objectives to be achieved by your committee in the years ahead. The preparation of such a Plan that is updated annually is now an essential aspect of the Tidy Towns Competition.

Do keep in mind that what is required is a simple Plan or document.

A Tidy Towns Handbook was issued by the Department of the Environment and Local Government to all Tidy Towns Committees. This is a highly useful document which will be a great help both to established Tidy Towns Committees and to all new entrants. It is divided into a series of seven Action Sheets that together cover all aspects of the Competition. It might be useful for your committee to run a series of seminar evenings based on the contents of this Tidy Towns Handbook.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The water feature at the Church is really attractive and compliments this fine building and associated landscaping. The re-painting of the old National School and the planting there has been most successful – a job very well done. Practically all properties in the village have been painted and the effective is excellent. Really good use is made of colour through painting, flowers and plants.

LANDSCAPING

The amenity area by the river continues to improve each year and you are keeping up the standard here. Have you considered the suggestion made by the adjudicator in 2000, of extending this area upstream? The many hanging baskets and window boxes look well. However do make sure that this is not overdone.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The provision of the bird tables is noted. Do try and develop

further amenities that will encourage wildlife to your area. The first step however is to identify the species which inhabit any such areas. The planting of native berry producing trees and shrubs can encourage wildlife. Your Committee might also consider the provision of bird and bat roosts and nesting sites in any old buildings. Make sure that any wildlife areas to which the public have access are properly sign-posted. In terms of access do remember the needs of people with disabilities. The development of these amenity walks and nature trails will add greatly to your area in the years ahead.

Has your Committee considered the erection of some information plaques about the wildlife to be seen in the area?

LITTER CONTROL

On the day of adjudication litter control was quite good. A lot of visitor traffic stops in your village and litter control in a village with a lot of traffic is always difficult.

TIDINESS

Your idea of seeking permission to work on private areas is excellent and hopefully you have been getting a lot of local co-operation on that issue. Barbed wire fencing on the Kenmare approach should be replaced and the adjudicator is aware of your plans for barbed wire! Filled gates should be painted where possible a nice bright colour, and so make a feature of them. On the coast road storage on the left hand side as you approach the village is still a problem and has been for a number of years.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The majority of private houses look very well indeed, and many have excellent landscaping. A property that especially catches the eye is the one on the right hand side on the Castletownbere approach.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Work has been done on all approach roads and they look well. However work on these roads is really an on-going task if they are to look their best - you've achieved a lot in improving the appearance of these roads. The road surface from Kenmare is really excellent.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ardgroom is a delightful village that is presented really well, and it was good to see so many visitors stopping in the village on adjudication day.