

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 19-06-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	39
The Built Environment	40	31	30
Landscaping	40	30	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	21
Litter Control	40	30	29
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	26
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	222	219

Ardee, County Louth

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Ardee is welcome to the 2001 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for the completed application and for your work programme which will be outdated soon, as many of the objectives appear to have been achieved, well done! The castle looks particularly well to its roadside façades, this is a wonderful heritage for the community. Well done on sponsorship from your local Supervalu and resident association and your contacts with local authority, FAS and other bodies. We would like to have more details of the Railway Walk and to have this noted on the map for next year.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Many buildings are well presented and of course the committee is aware of those in need of some upgrading. The remaining traditional features of the property 'A Classic Cut' should be retained upon refurbishment. As noted in previous years, do try to keep plastic neon fascia signs to a minimum, encourage people to replace them when their shopfronts are being refurbished. It is a pity that the Town Square at the Library is given over to car parking as it would provide a beautiful plaza type public space. Matthew's Pharmacy, Paul Sharkey & Sons, The Auberge are amongst the better presented shopfronts. Kieron and Magee together with Wogan Interiors, J. Callahan, the Home Bakery, Supervalu, Walshes, T. Malone and the Railway Bar can all be added to the list. The AIB and adjoining Pharmacy premises look splendid also. The church and its grounds look quite magnificent which is important as it occupies a focal point in the townscape.

LANDSCAPING

Trees and shrubberies are maturing beautifully and are a very pleasant aspect of the environment in Ardee. Rosebeds provide a welcome splash of colour at their respective locations. The new landscaping on the N2 is establishing itself well. The newly planted roadside verges along the new N33 link road have been noted, it will be a few years before they make a significant contribution to the environment.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The park could be a little better maintained, inappropriate weed growth together with some litter was noted during adjudication. However the mature and semi-mature trees and shrubs which line its perimeter were admired. The golfing facility beside Pairc Fherdia appears to be a popular recreational amenity venue. Stretches of hedgerow along the Tallanstown road must be a valuable wildlife habitat and the outbreaks of red poppies provided a dazzling display of

colour. The entrance to Pairc Mhuire sports grounds looks really well with its fresh coat of paint.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was good throughout the town, streets were clean and well presented. There was a litter problem though in the River Dee at the bridge. This was mainly litter from a take-away shop, perhaps the Chinese a few doors down the road. Other litter included beer bottles, cans, plastic bags and water bottles. Litter was also a problem in the small stream in the Ford of Ferdia. The child's bicycle should be removed from the bed of the Dee just under the bridge.

TIDINESS

The entrance to the town from the N52 is currently being redeveloped and allowances were made for its untidy aspect. The area around the bottle banks were a little untidy with paper bags, cans and other elements. The timber post fencing of Global Interiors adjacent to the area was broken in parts. This fencing should be planted with hedgerow or perhaps a flowering shrub for visual amenity, its car parking area could be resurfaced and lined also. The entire area around this commercial / industrial sector of the town presents serious problems under this heading. This stands in sharp contrast for the standard achieved for the Ardee Business Park out the Richardstown / Dunleer road. The derelict sheds with the rusted corrugated roofs at the speed limit signs on the Richardstown road are an eyesore. Try to have graffiti removed shortly after its appears.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Pairc Fherdia is beautifully presented in all respects with nicely maintained green areas, mature shrubberies, young trees, public seating, hanging baskets and street lighting, well done. Further building is noted here and one hopes the same high standard will be maintained. Some boundary walls need to be cleaned or painted. Both new and older residential developments out the Dunleer / Richardstown road are nicely presented. It is noted that further developments are planned for along this road and it is anticipated that the same high standard will be achieved. New infill developments in the town centre have been tastefully designed. The Slieve Breagh residential development at the Dublin entrance to the town continues to be presented to the high standard we have come to expect and presents a wonderful introduction to Ardee for the travelling public.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Approach roads to the town are nicely presented and the rose beds on the N52 together with neat grass verges, well maintained hedgerow and gracious stands of mature trees augured well for a pleasant experience in Ardee. Other approach roads were impressive also in their presentation.

Footpaths in the town centre are nicely presented and are in a good state of repair. As usual the car park is beautifully presented. Car parking along the main street should be side to kerb along one side to give a less visually cluttered aspect to the street. Some road signs need cleaning. Landscaping on the new roundabout on the N52 has not yet matured and will not be seen at its best for a few years yet. Work in progress was noted at other roundabouts. We look forward to the ducting of all the overhead service cables along the Main Street. The nameplate near the corner of the Dunleer road needs cleaning. The Centra car park is excellent. Try to have the Railway Walk sign posted from the town centre for next years competition.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The new relief road should take a lot of through traffic away and enable the further development of Ardee town as a quality environment for living. It was a pleasure to visit your lovely town again.