

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ARDCLOUGH**
County : **KILDARE**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 15-06-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	26
The Built Environment	40	22	20
Landscaping	40	22	21
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	15
Litter Control	40	24	24
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	20
General Impression	10	6	5
TOTAL MARK	300	175	164

Ardclough, Co. Kildare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Ardclough is welcome to the 2001 Tidy Towns Competition. The village enjoys a pleasant rural setting on the banks of the Grand Canal. The stone bridge is impressive and is an excellent introduction to Ardclough. The village is very difficult to find even though it is sign-posted on the N7. Once one leaves the N7 there are no signposts', it took the adjudicator an hour of driving around back roads to find it. Request Kildare County Council to provide fingerposts for Ardclough from Straffan village and from the N7. Have enquiries been made regarding the ducting of service cables and the removal of service poles, particularly the one on the village green across from the school.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The school building and the church building both look well, their grounds are nicely presented and the mature landscaping at the church is impressive. The clubhouse at the 'Danial Graham Memorial Park' was also admired however weed growth in its curtilage area should be kept in check during the growing season. The small shop adjacent to the church would benefit from reducing the number of signs in its door and windows, a fascia sign should also be provided

LANDSCAPING

Approach roads are lined by mature trees and hedgerow which give the entrance to Ardclough a stately appearance. Grass verges could be better presented along all three approach roads, they have been roughly cut and have become discoloured by grass cuttings which have not been removed. The village green located across from the church is being well maintained and features attractive landscaping which will make a significant visual impact as it matures. The large green open space on the approach road by 'Wheatfield Upper' presents an opportunity for further landscaping. The young trees along this road are establishing themselves well.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The village is located on the banks of the Grand Canal, which is a valuable amenity with many opportunities for a wildlife project. The walks along the banks are being nicely maintained. There are many wildlife habitats present in Ardclough. Has a wildlife awareness programme been considered? The view of the canal and its banks from the bridge is a fine visual amenity.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control is very good. Congratulations on the

imaginative timber enclosures for the litter bins. Ensure they are not allowed to become full to overflowing, by frequent emptying. Some litter was noted in ditches along stretches of approach roads, ensure that these areas are included in your litter management programme.

TIDINESS

There is an overall appearance of tidiness in Ardclough. Remove sprayed weeds as they become unsightly when discoloured. The remains of the stone building at the entrance to the village near the church have a dishevelled appearance which is out of character with the rest of the village.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The 'Wheatfield Upper' residential estate is excellent in its presentation. There are many beautiful gardens to residential properties in Ardclough. The private estate out the road by 'Wheatfield Upper' looked well from the roadside but was not accessible for inspection.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Verges of approach roads had been recently cut for adjudication however as noted above grass cuttings must be removed to keep verges green. Request Kildare County Council to install finger-post road-signs for neighbouring villages in the village centre. The new nameplates with their logo are attractively presented, well maintained and well sited. Stone walls on approach roads were admired. Items of street furniture are well presented.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ardclough is a beautiful village and is being maintained to a high standard, however as noted above it is difficult to find. The installation of signposting to the village would give it a stronger identity in the minds of the travelling public