

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **ARDATTIN**  
County : **CARLOW**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 21-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	38
The Built Environment	40	36	36
Landscaping	40	35	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	22
Litter Control	40	35	35
Tidiness	20	16	15
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	33	32
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>246</b>

## **Ardattin, County Carlow**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENT APPROACH**

The information provided with the application form made very interesting reading. The map was useful. The plan for the activities for the coming years has been well thought out and with the present level of achievements in the village there is no doubt that hard work and persistence is part of the tidy towns committee's qualities.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Stone plays a very prominent part of the features of Ardattin. There are many fine stone buildings and the stone walls add very good character to the village roadsides. The millennium memorial is an excellent idea. The church and carpark, as well as the school and craft centre, are looking very well. The pub also has a very good standard of presentation.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The landscape work that has been done on the roadsides is very effective and gives the village a very well kept and appropriate appearance. The landscaping on the approach roads, using trees and well maintained grass, is a simple, effective and appropriate formula in a rural setting. The many flower features through the village brighten the scene greatly and are a great credit to those concerned. Tree planting is an important aspect of village landscaping. As trees age it is important to have trees of varied ages to follow. All places, such as fields, church grounds, open greens and schools, should have a tree planting policy. The tree at the top of the village is a vital element to the village scene, this tree was planted many years ago and it is unlikely that people who planted this could have hoped to see it at maturity. Similarly we owe future generations the joy of seeing mature trees in the landscape. The gardens of the village contribute greatly to the overall landscape of the village. The Beechwood Drive area is well landscaped and very well maintained. The new housing developments will hopefully be properly finished off at the entrance so as to meet the standards of the rest of the village.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Hedgerows and trees help to harbour wild life. The preservation of such hedges is important for this reason. Work with the local school will help to identify projects relating to the wild life of the area. Such projects heighten the awareness of children to their natural environment and form an appreciation of nature.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter control is difficult in every town and village in Ireland. There is a very clean

appearance in the village. Constant vigilance is needed to keep the village free of all types of litter.

## **TIDINESS**

Ardattin is a very tidy village. The framework of the village roads gives a very orderly appearance. The stone walls and neatly kept grass verges help greatly with tidiness.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Beechwood Estate is a very well kept small estate and it is easy to see that there is a great level of pride in the care of the individual houses and gardens and in the care for the greens and surrounds of the estate. Individual houses along the roads are well tended and contribute greatly to the overall village appearance.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

The village is very straightforward with everywhere being clearly visible. The only concealed area is the Beechwood estate. The road surfaces are well tended as is the church carpark.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

On entry to the village it is easy to see that there is a great deal of effort placed in the development and maintenance of the roadsides, buildings and planted areas. Use of stone is particularly attractive and credit is due to those of you who have brought this village to such a high standard.

## **SECOND ADJUDICATION (03/08/02)**

The Stop 'n' Shop at the crossroads was bright and cheerful and the pub, with its lovely window boxes and hanging baskets, looked quite charming. Do note that traditional vernacular buildings were meant to be rendered and resist the temptation to remove the plaster to reveal the stonework beneath. Not only is this incorrect from a conservation point of view but may also lead to severe practical problems for the building. The planting to the front and each side of the ball-alley was admired, as indeed was attractive planting each side of this road. The school, community centre and church all looked quite charming. The plasterwork to the latter was admired, although it is quite badly stained with red algae growth. Signage throughout was well maintained with attractive timber village nameplates and directional finger post signage in the centre of the village. Ardattin is a pretty and well-maintained village. Most of the buildings were extremely well maintained.