

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ARDAGH**
County : **LONGFORD**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 06-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	46	45
The Built Environment	40	35	34
Landscaping	40	36	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	25
Litter Control	40	35	36
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	27	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	35	34
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	262	258

Ardagh, County Longford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

As always, it is a real pleasure to visit Ardagh. Its location slightly off the beaten track means that it is uncrowded, which is delightful: but then again one would like to see more people enjoying the fruits of the hard work of this community. The update on your Development Plan for the current year makes interesting reading – congratulations on achieving the self-set objectives. The closure of the Heritage Centre is a major loss, but local intelligence at the time of first adjudication was to the effect that this might be reversed.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Repairs to the Church of Ireland mentioned in your report could not be precisely identified and are welcome. The partial restoration of the old Rectory is a major achievement for all involved, especially the owners – this has been a contentious site for many years, and from a distance the house now looks dignified and commanding in its sylvan setting. Other buildings in the village are as well kept as ever, and the new floodlights at St Brigid's Church were noted.

LANDSCAPING

Very good. Grassed spaces well nurtured, bedding and shrubs doing fine, tubs and smaller plantings obviously going to make a splendid mark at midsummer. There was a great show of ponticums and laburnums on adjudication day. Heritage Centre plantings were doing well, the only evidence of closure being the long grass, which is easily rectified. A special note of commendation for the grounds of St Brigid's; perhaps there has been a little over-enthusiasm in the use of weedkiller along the verges, but the bedding – and especially the roses – is first class.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The beginning of a designated forest walk off the Moydow Road is a real step forward. Management of overgrown woodland and shrubbery's was favourably noted.

LITTER CONTROL

Some conspicuous litter was seen in the area between the church lych-gate and Noone's shop – probably a rare outbreak.

TIDINESS

Ardagh is a remarkably tidy village. There is little further comment to be added to that.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

It is good to see stone boundary walls erected as frontages to new homes. (One or two older suburban houses might follow suit.) Front gardens are pleasing throughout; one on the outskirts, opposite the GAA, is particularly charming and successful.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Surfaces are good in the centre of the village and on most approach roads. The back entrance to the Community Centre is particularly well kept – just the kind of place that might be neglected in a less environmentally-conscious village: congratulations. The name sign on the northern approach road needed cleaning on adjudication day. The Ardagh information sign is attractive, and the ‘Ardagh Landscapes’ sign is in keeping with the location. Another major step is the improvement of the open car park at the GGA grounds.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A really first rate entry reflecting a hardworking and imaginative community ethos.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (02/08/2002)

Ardagh looked beautiful on the day of second adjudication. The village was litter free and litter-bins appear to be adequate. Weed control was excellent also. Some stretches of roadside verge were badly eroded by tyre marks. It is sad to note that the Heritage Centre is now closed, it was a wonderful facility and very much enjoyed and admired by this adjudicator. Trees, shrubs and flower displays were a visual treat and are a credit to those responsible. We look forward to charting the progress of your initiatives for wildlife over the next few years.