

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **ARDFINNAN**  
County : **TIPPERARY SOUTH**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 02-08-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	35
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	35	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	24
Litter Control	40	26	25
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	29
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>218</b>

## **Ardfinnan, County Tipperary.**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you indeed for all the information sent with the entry form and for the map which was most useful on adjudication day. As villages go – Ardfinnan is quite a substantial one and the fact that it is very strung out must make it difficult to administer from a Tidy Towns point of view. It is being recommended to Committees and you should consider the production of a 3/5 year plan in which you would endeavour , in conjunction with your Local Authority, Fás, your Schools, the GAA and other interested parties, the identification of environmental projects which you could carry out over that period within your physical and financial resources. The work you have done is excellent but future progress in the competition will call for planning and attention to detail. It need not be an elaborate plan but a practical one which will allow you to undertake specific projects each year. You received an in-depth report from the Adjudicator last year. The following therefore is by way of comment on further progress to date and should be read in tandem with that report.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

New signs on the approach roads were noted and looked extremely well. Your Church and School and their surroundings are being very well maintained as are indeed the majority of your commercial premises. The bridge is also a very prominent structure in the village and appears to be in good repair. Stone walls, particularly on the approach from Clonmel looked extremely well. As mentioned in last years report there are a few buildings which need upgrading and your own comments in this respect have been noted.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Your large green in the centre of the village and its adjoining furniture, flowerbeds and tree planting is exceptional. Hanging baskets and containers throughout the village create a wonderful ambience and are being very well maintained. Comments made by the Adjudicator in last years report regarding future planting should be noted and should perhaps become part of your 3/5 year plan. Planting which has taken place over the last number of years is now maturing and looks very well. In all of this you should try to plant trees and shrubs which will give you some colour on an all-year-round basis. Additional landscaping at the back of the School was seen and even at this stage looks very well. Your comments regarding a later visit have been noted. Unfortunately adjudications throughout the country must take place in June and early July to leave sufficient time for second adjudications where necessary.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The open space in the middle of the village and the river is a natural habitat for wild

birds and, on adjudication day, nearly a dozen geese were to be seen in that locality. The Bog at the back of the school will be an enormous addition to this. Perhaps it might be possible for the school children to supply and maintain feeding tables and nesting boxes for birds by way of an environmental project. Comments made by last years Adjudicator regarding access to this site are still applicable. The river and open space in the centre of the village will be entered for the Wildlife Award.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Ardfinnan was practically litter free on adjudication day. This would appear to be a big improvement on last year and congratulations are due to all concerned. It is an important part of the competition and needs constant monitoring.

## **TIDINESS**

The village was presented in a very neat and tidy manner. A few areas, brought to your attention last year, still appear to be unresolved.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Ardfinnan has many individual houses including those in the Main Street, the majority of which are being well maintained. Castle View Housing Estate, St. Finians, St. Anns and Mount Carmel were visited. All looked well. If you have not already done so you should endeavour to have representatives from these estates on the Committee. Open spaces are being well maintained but, as mentioned in last years report, some opportunities still exist for further landscaping and improvements. Many houses had lovely gardens in full bloom which were a joy to see on adjudication day. Congratulations to all concerned.

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

Due to the excellent work of your Local Authority, road surfaces and pathways are extremely good. Approach roads are being well kept and trimmed and your new signage adds greatly to their appearance. The approach from Clonmel looked particularly nice.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Environmentally and in many other ways Ardfinnan is a delightful place to visit and reflects greatly the interest which your residents obviously have in their living environment. There is still however a lot of work to be done and the Adjudicator looks forward to returning to Ardfinnan again next year to see further progress being made. In the meantime keep up the good work.

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

The riverside green areas are the major asset of Ardfinnan with such great access to the riverside and views of the picturesque bridge and castle. The geese were enjoying

the wet weather at second adjudication. The roses were less happy with the weather and were showing signs of suffering the lack of sun and excess wetness. With so much lovely natural stone in the area it would be nice to use stone rather than concrete to surround the rose borders. As stated before some trees planted at very wide spacing along the road side of the green of a type consistent with the background trees on the far side of the river would be interesting.

By reducing the severe mound near the roadside to a gentle slope grass mowing could be achieved instead of needing a strimmer. The walkway from the post office around the back of the Church and school is a marvellous development. This will improve with plant growth and become a very valuable aspect of the village. The area of ground behind the Church and beside the hard court is in need of attention and the placing of plastic sacks in two corners is inconsistent with the general purpose of the walkway. The paling at St. Finnans Green awaits attention, as does the seat at the nearby circular border. Greater attention to detail will provide opportunity for improvement in Ardfinnan, for example- kerbside weeds, paint and décor of some buildings, and more attention to litter management. Hopefully a solution to the Hill Bar and the Co-Op will soon be found. Mural painting in the schoolyard in progress adds an interesting aspect to the village.