

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ARDMORE**
County : **WATERFORD**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 12-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	43	43
The Built Environment	40	35	35
Landscaping	40	27	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	23
Litter Control	40	38	38
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	33	32
General Impression	10	8	9
TOTAL MARK	300	247	246

Ardmore, County Waterford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for the map, 3 year Development Plan and all the information sent with your entry form, all of which was most useful on adjudication day. The Committee, with the co-operation of Fás, Waterford County Council and your Regional Tourism Authority is doing excellent work. A huge amount of development work has taken place in Ardmore and maintaining it alone is a major undertaking. The 3 year plan would seem to indicate that you propose to carry out further work on a phased basis which is very wise and is to be encouraged.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

As last year, your two Churches, School, Health Centre, Garda Station, Tourist Office, Round Tower and Hall were well presented and are a credit to all concerned. Business premises also looked well, except for one in the Main Street which seems to be somewhat derelict. Carparks within the village are also being well maintained. The Millennium sculpture and roundabout are very nice features and create a nice ambience in the village. Public seating is in good condition and work on the roundabout within the housing estate was noted. Your stonewalls, which are a feature of the village, looked well.

LANDSCAPING

Trees and shrubs planted over the years are now maturing and in the process creating a wonderful atmosphere which was much admired on adjudication day. New landscaping which is taking place will further enhance appreciation in the future. Flowerbeds throughout the village looked beautiful, in particular, the one at the junction of the Dungarvan and Youghal Road at the Tidy Towns plaque. Tubs of flowers, window baskets and hanging baskets, where presented, looked well and were obviously well maintained. Evidence of strimming on the New Line Road was to be seen on adjudication day. This area in particular is being well looked after with open spaces crisply cut and looking resplendent. The School grounds and that of the Round Tower Hotel are a credit to all concerned.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The two areas marked on the map were visited but unfortunately there did not appear to be any evidence or information at them which would indicate that they have been designated as such. Please do give some further thought to such a project as it will earn you extra marks in the competition. Consult the Tidy Towns handbook or contact the Wildlife Officer of Duchas who is always available for consultation. A simple start could be made with such items as a bird-feeding table, nesting boxes or birdbath. Perhaps this is something that school children could take on.

LITTER CONTROL

While the main areas of Ardmore were practically litter-free on adjudication day, unfortunately litter was to be seen in the housing estate on the Youghal Road, at the Cliff House Hotel car park, at the entrance to the Heritage Walk (beyond the Cliff House Hotel) and to a lesser extent, in the main car park at the Sea Front. A lot of litter was also to be seen on the new housing estate on the left hand side of the approach road from Dungarvan. It gives the Adjudicator no joy to say that the standard of litter control in Ardmore seems to be slipping.

TIDINESS

In general the village was presented in a neat and tidy manner. Open storage is still a problem but work in progress on painting, planting, strimming, etc. would indicate that there is a great awareness of the preservation of the environment and, in this connection, congratulations are due to all concerned.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

New housing estates look well but will need time to mature. In some cases their open spaces are badly in need of maintenance. Older housing estates were again very well presented this year and their gardens were, in most cases, a credit to the owners. In a small village this type of co-operation is very important and a big "well done" to all concerned.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Approach roads are being well looked after. In particular the Youghal Road with its wonderful landscaping, which was in full bloom on adjudication day. Road surfaces and pavements are in good condition, which reflects greatly on your County Council.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

With the exception of the litter problem Ardmore looked very well again this year which is a credit to your Committee and associates. Perhaps an anti-litter campaign, would help to draw attention to the problem, particularly in the summer when visitors can import a lot of litter. Hopefully the current building programme will be over by next year at which time the Adjudicator looks forward to coming back again to assess the results of your combined efforts. In the meantime keep up the good work.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (03/08/02)

This adjudicator had not been in the vicinity for some years and admired the millennium statue of St. Declan in its prominent position. The loss of some of the pleasant planting by the stream and the installation of a sagging wire fence where building has taken

place was unfortunate. However, these are items which could be imaginatively rectified. New hilltop housing destroys the unique time-honoured profile of this green headland when the only man-made structure was St Declan's wonderful round tower. This is a loss of major proportions.

Litter control was much improved on second adjudication day. Students were engaged in systematic litter picking. Congratulations to them and to the initiative.