

# Tidy Towns Competition 2003

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ardattin**

Ref: **272**

County: **Carlow**

Mark: **252**

Category: **A**

Date: **29/07/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	39
The Built Environment	40	37	36
Landscaping	40	35	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	22
Litter Control	40	36	35
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	26	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	33	33
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>249</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you indeed for all the information supplied with the entry form which was most useful on adjudication day. It is realised that the village is very small and your comments regarding present and future developments have been noted. However having identified what other projects might realistically be done, you should draw up a simple plan indicating what you might do over the next couple of years within your physical and financial resources. Such a plan is useful when talking to your Local Authority or Fás and can also be used as a yardstick to measure what success, if any, you are having. In the event, do not try to do everything together as sometimes failure to do so can lead to frustration. You received an in-depth report from the adjudicator last year. The following therefore is by way of comment on perceived further progress to date and should be read together with that report.

### The Built Environment:

As last year your Church, School, Car Park, Craft Centre, Community Hall, Ball Alley and Grotto are very nicely presented and are obviously being well maintained. The Cottage Museum is a lovely idea. Walls throughout the village both in public and private areas are nicely painted and added great colour to the overall appearance. The Pub and Shop 'N' Stop also looked very nice and both are being kept very neat and tidy.

## **Landscaping:**

Landscaping throughout the village looked resplendent and is obviously being well maintained. Containerised plants and baskets add greatly to the landscaping effort. Open spaces at Beechwood Drive looked very nice and perhaps might lend themselves to further landscaping. The new housing development is now almost complete and hopefully will be landscaped in time for next year's adjudication.

## **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

Your comments under this heading have been noted. However the suggestion is that a specific wildlife project should be undertaken. Perhaps a simple project with your school in the provision of feeding tables and nesting boxes for birds together with a wildlife information board might be a start. Perhaps there is someone in the locality who is knowledgeable on the subject. Duchas will also be glad to help.

## **Litter Control:**

The village was practically litter free on adjudication day and this reflects greatly on the interest which your residents have in their environment. Well done to all concerned. This is an important part of the Competition and needs to be monitored frequently.

## **Tidiness:**

The village was presented in a very neat and tidy manner and again great credit is due to your residents for this.

## **Residential Areas:**

Beechwood Drive is very well kept and the new houses at Temple View looked splendid and greatly enhance the overall appearance of the village. Individual houses throughout the village looked exceptionally well and many, including those in the housing estates, had lovely gardens in full bloom on adjudication day. This again is a wonderful effort and all concerned are to be congratulated. In a small centre this individual effort is absolutely essential if progress is to be made in the Competition.

## **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Approach roads are being very well maintained as indeed are toad surfaces and paths. In this connection great credit is due to your Local Authority.

## **General Impression:**

There is a lovely atmosphere in the village created by its tidiness, its landscaping and the wonderful individual effort of householders and shopkeepers. This is what the Tidy Towns Competition is all about and great credit is due to everyone. The adjudicator looks forward to returning to Ardattin again next year. In the meantime initiate further projects and, most importantly, keep up the good standard of maintenance which you have achieved.

## **Second Round Adjudication:**

Ardattin is a very small village with a population less than 200, developed around a T-junction of two small rural roads. It is a most pleasant and tidy village to come into. Practically no litter was seen on the day of the second adjudication and the Committee is to be congratulated on both its tidy atmosphere and free of litter. The entrance in from Tullow is most pleasant with its well kept verges. The Catholic church is a very fine building and its grounds very well landscaped and

maintained. The Adjudicator considered the Millenium monument a very interesting design. The school grounds were also very well landscaped and, even more important, very well maintained, the window boxes in particular were most pleasant and added that touch of colour that was needed. The Adjudicator hopes that the pupils were actively involved in all aspects of this planting and maintenance. The tree planting behind the school wall was noted. The handball alley, an eyesore in so many villages, is superbly handled here, especially at the recessed landscaped entrance area with its seating, well kept lawn and paving. The proposed fountain here will be a most pleasant addition. The Coach House Craft's Centre is an excellent project, what is needed now is some tree planting. Yes, the abandoned house opposite the school was noticed, the Committee can only keep up pressure on the owners to rehabilitate or demolish it. The T-junction is a most interesting concept and the Committee is to be congratulated on its design and maintenance. The Stop 'N' Shop and pub looked most pleasant and the window boxes and hanging baskets added great colour, what is now needed here, also, is tree planting around the perimeter of the sites adjoining the road. Beechwood Drive housing was excellently landscaped. The Adjudicator noticed new houses nearing completion adjoining and, undoubtedly, there will be more in the coming years. It is important that the Committee give advice to these new home owners on the development of their gardens. What is badly needed in this village is for the Committee to now concentrate on the planting of trees such as oak, ash, rowan, whitebeam, chestnut and that these trees are large enough at planting stage to give some impact.