

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ardmore**

Ref: **430**

County: **Waterford**

Mark: **248**

Category: **B**

Date: **06/08/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	43	43
The Built Environment	40	35	35
Landscaping	40	28	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	23
Litter Control	40	37	38
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	33	33
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	248	247

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you indeed for the map and all the information sent with the entry form. It is gratifying to see that you still have the cooperation of FÁS, Waterford County Council and, most important, your local community for your efforts. The 2003 section of your plan would seem to indicate that while some additional work is taking place the emphasis is very much on maintenance. This is very important and your village, on adjudication day, is showing the benefit of it. Nevertheless Ardmore has reached a comparatively high status in the competition and has the capacity to go even higher. This requires careful planning and attention to detail. Again it is recommended that you produce a three to five year plan setting out what you might realistically achieve during that period within your physical and financial resources. The plan does not have to be elaborate and could be done in conjunction with your Local Authority, FÁS, your Regional Tourism Authority, Dúchas and any other agencies which you feel might be of assistance to you. In the event the adjudicator will welcome a sight of this plan with the entry form next year.

The Built Environment:

Your public buildings continue to be well maintained – two churches, school, health centre, Garda Station, Tourist Office, Round Tower and Hall. Your comments regarding your ongoing campaign with business premises has been noted but the main street looks well again this year but some premises do need refurbishment. Open storage continues to be a problem. Huge improvements have been made to the seafront area which greatly enhances that end of the village. Stonewalls,

which are a feature of Ardmore, are being well maintained also as indeed is your street furniture. There are still some derelict sites to be seen. Work closely with your local authority on this problem. You will be aware that they do have rights under the Derelict Sites Acts to deal with this problem.

Landscaping:

This aspect of your work is and will continue be a main plank in your Tidy Towns effort. This year, as in the past, the village looked splendid. Landscaped areas are being well maintained and were in full bloom on adjudication day. Tubs of flowers, window baskets, hanging baskets and planters all looked extremely well and open spaces are nicely trimmed. With the advent of new housing estates and particularly on the Youghal Road, new open areas are appearing and would ideally lend themselves to further landscaping. In the event and as has been recommended in the past please do try to plant trees and shrub which will give you some colour on a year round basis. Flowerbeds through out the village also looked well and the school grounds and the grounds of the Round Tower Hotel were very nicely presented.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your comments under this heading are noted and hopefully your project in this respect will be available should a second adjudication take place or next year. In the mean time you will continue to receive the same nominal mark as last year.

Litter Control:

The centre of the village was practically litter free on adjudication day. Some minor littering was to be seen in the area of the Cliff House Hotel and the Round Tower, but generally speaking, there has been a big improvement on the same period last year. In fact work in progress on litter collection was observed on adjudication day. This is an important part of the competition and needs continues monitoring.

Tidiness:

Other than the open storage mentioned above the village is being very well maintained and reflects great credit on your residents and their environmental awareness.

Residential Areas:

All housing estates were visited. Some houses in the older estates and particularly in terms of fencing need refurbishment. The new housing estate on the Dungarvan Road is lovely and is very nicely finished. The adjudicator was particularly taken with the new lamp standards and hanging baskets which creates wonderful ambiance. The Heritage Estate and individual houses which are presently being built will add further to overall appearance of Ardmore. When completed however, the maintenance of open spaces attached to these developments could become a problem beyond the capabilities of the Tidy Towns Committee. In any future planning please give some thought to this. It would be of the utmost importance that representation from those living in these areas would be brought onto the committee and that the situation be monitored on an ongoing basis. Individual houses again looked well. Many had gardens in full bloom which were a joy to behold and great credit is due to all concerned. This too is a major plank in your Tidy Towns effort. You cannot succeed without it.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approach roads are good and footpaths are being well looked after. Landscaping on approach roads creates a very nice atmosphere on entering the village and reflects great credit on your committee.

General Impression:

Building works which are now taking place do lead to some disruption but this will pass. Where appropriate allowances have been made for this. Ardmore is being very well maintained and, as always, is a joy to visit. Keep up the good work.

Second Round Adjudication:

A brave attempt had been made to display Ardmore to a high standard despite the throngs of holiday makers who were still bathing in the sea at 9pm. Despite many beautiful stone walls there is great scope to cut back overgrowth on others. Hopefully soon you will be able to deal with the remaining derelict properties as they detract from the excellent work invested by so many. The continuance of thatched roofs and retention of at least some up and down sash windows is commended. Tig na Foinse was particularly admired. Indeed many of the shrub beds would benefit from pruning / thinning. The public toilets need an overhaul. While the street and seafront areas are appropriately vibrant and brightly painted the residential roads above with their mature walls and hedging were pleasantly tranquil in comparison. The harbour would benefit from some clearing of debris. The diverse yet well cared for cottages above the harbour and especially the private garden were particularly admired. The round tower is a most distinctive landmark – one wonders if it would be granted planning permission nowadays! Whereas the comment under litter control above was upbeat it was considered that last year's very high mark could not be sustained, bearing in mind the appalling amount of litter on the beach and in the adjacent carpark, not helped by inadequate emptying of the bins.