

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ardattin**

Ref: **572**

County: **Carlow**

Mark: **256**

Category: **A**

Date: **07/08/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	39
The Built Environment	40	37	37
Landscaping	40	35	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	22
Litter Control	40	37	36
Tidiness	20	17	16
Residential Areas	30	27	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	34	33
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	256	252

Overall Developmental Approach:

The fact that your committee has the support of Carlow County Council, FAS and the ESB was evident in the very nice way in which Ardattin was presented on adjudication day. A lovely atmosphere prevails in the village and all concerned are to be congratulated. Thank you for the information sent with the entry form and for the map which was most useful. As mentioned in last year's report, do try to develop a simple 3/5 year plan for further environmental developments in the village and structure such a plan under the headings of the competition; the carrying out of which will also have the effect of gaining you extra marks in future years.

The Built Environment:

Your Church, Millennium Monument and School looked very well again this year. The Coach House and the Community Hall are being well maintained as indeed are the car parks and the Ball Alley. The Grotto is a very nice feature and your comments regarding further development there have been noted. The provision of wheelchair access is to be commended and all concerned are to be congratulated on it. Commercial premises in the village again looked well this year are being maintained to a very good standard.

Landscaping:

Landscaping, both old and new, were much admired and created a lovely ambience in the village. Open spaces at Beechwood Drive which contains a very fine Bullaun Stone and at Temple View are being well maintained and, as part of any future planning, might lend themselves to further landscaping. Tubs of flowers, hanging baskets and window boxes, where presented, look very well and greatly enhance the landscaping effort

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your comments regarding the care of hedgerows have been noted. Perhaps however, and as part of any future planning, you might consider the development of a wildlife project, perhaps involving your schoolchildren; this can very simply be the provision of nesting boxes and feeding tables in the School grounds together with perhaps a wildlife board showing what can be seen locally. There may perhaps be some person in your locality who is knowledgeable on the subject or alternatively you can consult with Duchas or their successors.

Litter Control:

Ardattin was litter free on adjudication day. Great credit is due to all concerned.

Tidiness:

The village was again presented in a very neat and tidy manner and reflects greatly the interest which your residents have in their living environment.

Residential Areas:

Beechwood Drive and Temple View housing estates are being maintained to a very high standard. Throughout the village individual houses again looked well and in many cases they had lovely gardens in full bloom which added greatly to the landscaping and the Tidy Towns effort. Well done to all involved.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approach roads were nicely presented and road surfaces and paths are being well maintained.

General Impression:

There is obviously a great community effort in Ardattin which is reflected in the lovely appearance of the village and great credit is due to all concerned. Ardattin has now reached a very high mark in the competition and additional marks will be difficult to come by in the future but can be accessed through careful planning and attention to detail and, of course, a high level of maintenance of what you already have and have been so successful with. In the event, do send a copy of any plan with your Tidy Towns Entry next year so that the Adjudicator can have sight of it. In the meantime keep up the good work.

Second Round Adjudication:

It was a pleasure to visit Ardattin on the occasion of second adjudication. This adjudicator has been noting your progress since the first entry into the competition and continues to be impressed each year. Landscaping throughout the village is a successful mix of permanent and bedding plants and a balance has been achieved between year round interest and seasonal interest. The red berries of the Rowan trees were visually stunning and appreciated; a similar standard of excellence has been achieved for green areas. Weed control is excellent throughout, with the minor exception of some stretches of kerb in Beechwood Drive. However this was not excessive and no marks have been lost. Litter control is excellent also and the village has an overall ambience of tidiness. The built

environment enjoys a similar standard of presentation, however the more serious exception is perhaps the weather stained appearance of both the church and its boundary wall. The school was admired together with its grounds but the boundary wall here may need a little attention soon and the hall located across from the coach house will need to be painted to freshen its appearance. Other buildings including the old stone houses and walls were admired and the newer bungalows are sitting discretely into their environment. The Temple View residential development looks good and the only criticism here might be that it is rather more suburban in appearance than one might expect in a rural village like Ardattin. We noted no evidence of a wildlife project in the course of second adjudication; this is something the committee might like to consider for the future. We wish you luck with the proposed Peace Park development.