

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ardfield**

Ref: **44**

County: **Cork West**

Mark: **217**

Category: **A**

Date: **30/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	36
The Built Environment	40	30	30
Landscaping	40	33	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	16
Litter Control	40	37	37
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	16	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	26
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	217	213

Overall Developmental Approach:

Ardfield Tidy Town's Committee is in the middle of its three year plan. Your work seems to be progressing well and, certainly, plans to erect information signage in relation to the local place names and history of the area for next year, are looked forward to with eager anticipation. You appear to have an excellent relationship with Cork County Council. Many thanks for your very clear and comprehensive maps which were most useful on adjudication day.

The Built Environment:

The old hall is in a bad condition, as commented upon yourselves, in your application form. However, it is unclear from the same what plans you have for its future. Presumably you hope to restore it to its former glory as you mention your involvement with Cork County Council, Duchas and the Department of Art Heritage & the Gaeltacht. The church was in good condition and its unusual mosaic over the entrance door was greatly admired. The school looked well and major work was taking place to the GAA pitch on adjudication day. Much work had been achieved at the tennis courts since the adjudicator last visited Ardfield and the new stone walling was greatly admired. O'Mahony's shop and post office looked well, although its sign will need repainting before next year's competition.

Landscaping:

St. James' Well is simply presented but, as mentioned by last year's adjudicator, signage indicating its exact location is quite vague! There is scope for further landscaping in this location. The new stone walling to the tennis courts has been mentioned previously in this report. The attractive landscaped area between the tennis courts and the road looked extremely well, as did the space opposite O'Mahony's with its colourful floral displays and stone wall surround.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The wildlife area beside the hall is a wonderful initiative. Ardfield is indeed fortunate with regard to the abundance of wild flowers, including marvelous displays of monbretia along the roadsides. You have a high level of awareness of the numerous wildlife habitats in the localities such as beehives, owls and bats. Perhaps you could consider publishing a leaflet outlining areas of wildlife interest in the locality. Get the local school children involved as part of an environmental project.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day was extremely good and your weekly clean ups are evidently paying dividends.

Tidiness:

There is still a reasonably high level of dereliction throughout the village. A boarded up house at the junction of the Red Strand and Wood Road was presented as well as it could be, given its apparently abandoned state. The old hall has been mentioned previously. Some badly presented outbuildings on the main road near to Mountain Common Farm looked unfortunate and rusty tin roofs to sheds should be painted in their traditional red or green colours - one was evident opposite the yellow house near St. James' Well.

Residential Areas:

The standard in this category of the competition was somewhat inconsistent. There were a number of houses that weren't presented to the highest of standards. However, houses in the vicinity of the parochial house and along Wood Road were admired and some attractive tubs to the front of two well presented houses on the Rathbarry Road were also admired. Do ensure that new houses are in keeping with the character and nature of the village.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The standard in this category of the competition was quite good. The stone plaque with the village name on the Rathbarry Road was greatly admired. However, a little weeding was necessary to kerbsides on the bend and the road surface was in rather bad condition with potholes evident. The Red Strand Road looked well and the marvelous displays of monbretia must look magnificent when in full bloom.

General Impression:

Ardfield is an attractive centre which has conducted some well worthwhile work since this adjudicator last had the pleasure of visiting. Well done to all concerned!