

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ardagh**

Ref: **398**

County: **Longford**

Mark: **264**

Category: **A**

Date: **31/07/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	46	46
The Built Environment	40	35	35
Landscaping	40	36	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	26	25
Litter Control	40	35	35
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	27	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	35	35
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	264	263

Overall Developmental Approach:

Ardagh is welcome to the 2004 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your detailed submission and excellent sketch map. Your three year plan is good and it is a pleasure to note its implementation in many respects. The village is a successful mix of handsome stone buildings with well maintained grass verges backed by stone walls and mature trees. A new housing development has been noted and no doubt other developments will follow; the committee must be vigilant in ensuring the same high standard is achieved by new residents; we wish you luck in bringing new hands on board the Tidy Towns movement in Ardagh.

The Built Environment:

Lyons pub was presented to an excellent standard this year. The Heritage Centre, school and church were admired also. Walls of the GAA park continue to be a problem in terms of the visual amenity of the village. Fortunately they are not too close to the village centre. The clubhouse was boarded up to its window and door apertures on adjudication day; are there further plans for this building? The old rectory continues to impress and we note the restoration of the roof as part of the phased redevelopment of the building. We look forward to further developments in this respect.

Landscaping:

The simplicity of red geraniums against a backdrop of grey stone walls makes a strong and pleasant visual impact. Flower displays at the Heritage Centre and throughout the village were in full bloom on adjudication day and were very much admired by the adjudicator; we note the planting of spring bulbs also, no doubt these were as impressive as your summer flowering plants. Well done on having your own tunnel for the propagation of flowers and also on the community mulching facility. The edge of the village green appeared to have been sprayed and had a 'burnt' appearance. The community park and arboretum is a wonderful facility and no doubt requires considerable maintenance.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The walls of the sports grounds continue to be problematic, this fine amenity could be further enhanced with appropriate planting to its walls. Are there further plans for the club house? its window and door apertures were boarded up during adjudication. Well done on the management of hedgerow for wildlife! Has a habitat survey been undertaken?

Litter Control:

Your daily litter patrols are fruitful as litter control continues to be excellent; keep us informed regarding other litter control activities as these can earn additional marks. The litter bin at the Heritage Centre was overflowing on adjudication day, this suggests more frequent emptying is necessary.

Tidiness:

The recycling point in the car park has been noted and was found to be tidy. The Community Centre premises featured weed growth on its eaves which suggests neglect. Roads throughout the village, while not littered, were in need of a good sweeping and weedy kerbs were noted at a few locations. It is not enough to spray weeds - they must also be removed.

Residential Areas:

Ardagh village enjoys a variety of architectural styles and building materials for its dwellings. Residential properties were presented to the highest standard in most cases and several gardens were admired; boundary walls were generally well presented, each resident should be encouraged to take responsibility for the area immediately outside of their own boundary wall; the contribution of clay for the development of grassed roadside areas is a good initiative. A fine presentation!

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Some stretches of roadside edge are in need of resurfacing; the same recommendation can be made for the car park. Congratulations on the new limestone stone walls, this is a grand achievement! Many old forged iron field gates have been noted on approach roads; these are worth refurbishing and highlighting as an attractive feature of Ardagh; a single colour might be chosen for all to project a unified presentation.

General Impression:

Ardagh continues to impress with its many handsome features and continuous fine overall presentation. We wish the committee every success and look forward to repeat visits.

Second Round Adjudication:

The former competition winning Heritage Village of Ardagh looked extremely well on Second Adjudication Day, with its wealth of beautifully maintained stone cottages! One cottage is for sale

and it is to be hoped that it will maintain its original timber sash windows when restored to its former glory! The approach roads with mature trees overhanging well kept grass verges and grassy banks were admired. The retention of the square traditional nameplate sign is to your credit. Relatively new houses are appropriate to the character of the village. The school and church grounds were well maintained and the Heritage Centre was quite fresh. Signage throughout the village is good, making the visitor's task easier by indicating the location of the features that are of interest to him/her. The Village Green and monument were both simply presented.