

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ardee**

Ref: **616**

County: **Louth**

Mark: **231**

Category: **D**

Date: **12/07/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	43	42
The Built Environment	40	31	31
Landscaping	40	31	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	21
Litter Control	40	28	31
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	26	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	28
General Impression	10	6	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>229</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

The committee is thanked for their entry into this year's competition. Included is a 5 year plan and a well completed entry form. The two page map was difficult to read and some places that were hand written in on the index were not shown on the map. It is most important that your entry highlights the works completed in the past year. This is a useful aid to the adjudicator and ensures that marks are awarded for works completed. There is ongoing co-operation with the statutory bodies and this is to be commended. The areas of agreement reached with the Chamber of Commerce is very worthwhile.

### The Built Environment:

The assessment given by last year's adjudicator with regards to the main street is very comprehensive and still relevant. Widening the street and allowing room for more trees is certainly worth considering. The town is still very busy with through traffic. Ardee has a very interesting main street with the two castles and the market square. There are a number of disused buildings along the main street and it would be useful to know what plans are in place by the owners for these. The Ardee Bread Co. building is for sale and it is hoped that this building will be sensitively restored. When will the Castle be open to visitors?

### Landscaping:

There are some wonderful areas of landscaping in the town most notably at the roundabouts on the north side of the town. The mature trees along the Collon Rd. approach at the sports grounds enhances the beauty of the roadside. Along the main street, the trees are maturing very nicely with a few exceptions as some of them appear unhealthy. There was very attractive landscaping at the Fair Green.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The Raised Bog and riverside walks offers natural habitats for various forms of wildlife. The railway walk and sensory garden likewise. Information boards on local flora and fauna are excellent additions to a town and would be most welcome. The Fairgreen is a very well developed amenity area for young and old alike to enjoy. The area along by the stone wall linking the two roundabouts has been allowed to develop naturally and encourages wild flowers and wildlife.

### **Litter Control:**

This is probably the section the committee will be most disappointed with considering last years report cited no litter seen on the day of adjudication. There were a number of areas that were very littered this year - the adjudicator returned to the town on a second occasion and sadly the incidence of littering was the same. The bins just inside the bridge at the riverside walk were full and bags of rubbish were left lying beside them. Litter was strewn around here and also at the Fairgreen. Many of the bins (which themselves require cleaning or repainting) were full. The road up to the golf club opposite the Fairgreen had a lot of litter on the roadside.

### **Tidiness:**

The hard work of the committee is evident throughout the town in that most areas were very well maintained and tidy. The Church grounds were wonderful, as were the community school grounds. The following are examples of items that require attention as the town progresses in the competition: Many of the wooden benches around the town require painting: Although grass was cut, the edges were not finished off in a tidy manner in many areas of the town, e.g. the Amenity Area at Fain Green: At the Collon Rd. entrance to the town, below the sports grounds and at the sign for Ardee, there are broken kerb stones: The grass verge was uncut by the 30 mph sign: The multi-lingual sign is rusty: The pay parking town sign was overgrown and untidy: A new sign is required for the Riverside Walk at the bridge and the wire fence inside the bridge needs to be replaced: The gate beside the statue for Sean O'Cearahaill was broken.

### **Residential Areas:**

The residential areas of the town are very well maintained. Congratulations to all concerned. Parc Fherdia, Mulladrillon, De La Salle Crescent and Moorehall were all looking very well to name a few! The committee are to be commended for this achievement as they are the ones providing the motivation to the residents to be responsible in maintaining their own estates.

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

There are some fine pieces of sculpture in the town that are very attractive. The firestation was exceptionally well maintained and looked very well. The area at the wooden bridge is very welcoming and attractive. In the main, the approach roads into the town are well maintained and gives a feeling of welcome on entering the town. On the approach to Hale St., just inside the 30 mph sign, the ESB station is most unattractive and requires landscaping and screening. The Business Park opposite in contrast looks very fine.

### **General Impression:**

Ardee is a very welcoming town. It has many interesting features and there has been tremendous work carried out by the County Council and particularly by the Tidy Towns Committee in the past number of years. The town still has heavy traffic - even late in the evening the main street is very busy. It also has great potential and the committee should consider the possibility of a footpath widening programme for the main street with tree bays, etc. Your local LEADER Group, located in your main street, may be able to provide funding for a feasibility study in conjunction with the local authority on this. Well done on all achievements to date and the adjudicator looks forward to next years entry.