

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ardfinnan**

Ref: **493**

County: **Tipperary South**

Mark: **232**

Category: **B**

Date: **20/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	35
The Built Environment	40	27	26
Landscaping	40	36	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	26	26
Litter Control	40	29	26
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	25	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	29
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>224</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

The fact that you continue to have the support of FAS, South Tipperary County Council, GAA, your School and your Community Council is reflected in the appearance of Ardfinnan on adjudication day. For a village of its size it is being extremely well maintained and reflects great credit on all concerned. Thank you for all the information sent with the entry form and for the photographs and map, all of which was extremely helpful in carrying out the adjudication. Obviously, as a committee, you liaise very closely with public bodies but, at the same time, do plan your own projects as well. There are lots of opportunities in Ardfinnan for additional landscaping, wildlife development, work in co-operation with Residence Associations, all of which would hold out the expectation of gaining additional marks in the competition.

### The Built Environment:

All of your public buildings, mentioned in last years report, were very well presented again this year and congratulations are due to all concerned. The walls of the village looked extremely well and particularly admired was the bridge and the work done on the bridges and new bridges in the Park area. In this respect your plans for a water fountain are indeed to be encouraged and would be a beautiful feature right in the middle of this lovely village. Your work on the Clogheen Road is also to be commended. The picnic tables are a lovely additional feature. Abandoned buildings still appear to be a problem and your comments in this respect have been noted. In general however business premises again looked very well and you must encourage owners, as part of the competition, to

maintain a high level of maintenance.

### **Landscaping:**

Wonderful landscaping is to be seen throughout the village from start to finish. The large green in the centre of the village looked very well and is being well maintained. Trees, flowerbeds, containerised plants, hanging baskets, window boxes and many other floral features created a wonderful atmosphere in the village which looked resplendent in the June sunshine. The landscaping on the Clonmel and Clogheen Roads was much admired as indeed was that in the vicinity of the Liam Lynch Monument, down side streets, in housing estates and in so many other places. Trees planted in the past are now maturing very nicely. As part of your future planning do think of planting further trees and shrubs – the latter in particular will supply some colour in the village on an all year round basis. Tree planting is for the future and posterity will thank you for it. All landscaped areas are being very well maintained and great credit is due to all concerned.

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

While your comments under this heading are noted the observations of last years Adjudicator are still pertinent. Within any new plan which you produce do try to extend and expand on this aspect of your entry. You have the most wonderful facilities to do it with.

### **Litter Control:**

The centre of the village was completely litter free on adjudication day. This reflects great credit on the commercial premises and residents there and they are to be congratulated for it. Unfortunately there was some minor littering in one of the housing estates and on the approach road from Clogheen but, all in all, a big improvement on last year. Well done to all concerned.

### **Tidiness:**

This year, again, the village was presented in a very neat and tidy manner with very little out of place. Open storage on some premises is a problem and indeed a difficult one to solve. Perhaps, where appropriate, they could be approached on the basis of suggesting to them that they plant some trees by way of screening or lattice fencing which will obscure the view of their various working materials and goods.

### **Residential Areas:**

All the housing estates in Ardfinnan were again visited this year and were very well presented and reflect great credit on the people who live in them. Unfortunately, as already mentioned, litter was to be seen in one in spite of the fact that a litter bin was provided. This might purely be a matter of discussing the problem generally with your Residence Associations in the hope that it might rub off as appropriate. Individual houses throughout the village looked very well and many had containerised plantings, window boxes and hanging baskets which enhanced their appearance and added greatly to the Tidy Towns effort. Many gardens were in full bloom on adjudication day and looked lovely. This too is an important part of the competition and all concerned are to be complimented.

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

Your wooden 'Welcome' signs are lovely. The Clogheen approach and the Clonmel approach roads were extremely well presented and could well be copied by many other centres in the competition. On the Clonmel road in particular the huge amount of open spaces were beautifully maintained and great credit is due to whoever is responsible for it. Road surfaces and pathways are very good and in this respect, great credit is due to your County Council.

**General Impression:**

It was suggested last year that you should survey the environmental needs of the village and base your future planning on what you find. This planning should be done on an annual basis to coincide with your physical and financial resources. Such a plan could also be used as a yardstick to measure your success (or otherwise) and, in the event, might stimulate more people to get involved in your Committee. Maintenance too, of course is all important and the standard achieved this year is an example of how this should be applied and carried out. The Adjudicator looks forward to returning to Ardfinnan again next year to see what further progress has been made. In the mean time keep up the good work.