

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ardmore**

Ref: **504**

County: **Waterford**

Mark: **254**

Category: **B**

Date: **28/07/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	44	43
The Built Environment	40	35	35
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	23
Litter Control	40	38	37
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	25	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	34	33
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>248</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

The support which you are receiving locally, from your County Council, Enterprise Board, FAS and the Tourist Board was evident in Ardmore on adjudication day. The village presentation was very nice indeed and all concerned are to be congratulated on it. Thank you for the information sent with the entry form and for the map which was most useful. Your plan is very practical and, in the event, not only identifies work to be done but can also be used as a yardstick to measure successes (or otherwise) as you progress.

### The Built Environment:

All your public buildings were again well presented this year and are being maintained to a very high standard - Churches, Health Centre, Garda Station, Round Tower, School, Hall and Tourist Office. The latter would probably be in need of a coat of paint soon. The fountain in the village is a lovely feature but probably needs a greater strength of water. Regrettably your Public Toilets need total refurbishment. It is accepted that, in a seaside resort, maintenance and servicing of toilets is a major problem but, nevertheless, they do need to be renewed. Your comments regarding open storage have been noted. Commercial premises throughout the village looked very nice indeed with one or two exceptions. In particular, An Tig Beag badly needs repainting. Perhaps this is something your committee could take in hand with the consent of the owner. The seafront area and the beach looked splendid on adjudication day with no litter to be seen. Your stone walls and street furniture are being maintained to a very high standard as indeed is the Monument overlooking the sea on the

road to the hotel. The Round Tower and its Cemetery are, of course, major features in the village and are being maintained to a very high standard.

### **Landscaping:**

Landscaping throughout the village was much admired; in particular, that at the junction of the Main Street and the Youghal Road, in the area of the Church, on the approach roads from Youghal and Dungarvan and indeed throughout the town by way of the provision of hanging baskets, tubs of flowers and window boxes. The School grounds continue to be nicely maintained as indeed is the grounds of the Round Tower Hotel which was much admired. As a result of all this, a lovely atmosphere prevails in Ardmore and all involved are to be congratulated. As mentioned in last years report, try, as part of your future planning, to identify further areas throughout the village where trees and shrubs can be planted. The planting of flowers is not being discouraged but trees and shrubs will be with you on an all-year round basis and indeed are being planted for the future for which posterity will thank you.

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

The various information boards were noted throughout the village and your literature is excellent. There is obviously a wealth of knowledge in Ardmore on birds and wildlife generally which could be put to good use for the development, as part of your future planning, of a specific project under this heading which would not alone prove to be an attraction for both residents and visitors alike, but would also gain you additional marks in the competition.

### **Litter Control:**

Except for very minor bits of litter in two or three places the village was litter free - a wonderful achievement in a seaside resort. Do continue to monitor this situation very carefully. It is a very important part of the competition. Well done to all concerned.

### **Tidiness:**

The village was again presented in a very neat and tidy manner and reflects greatly the interest which your commercial premises and residents have in the preservation of their environment. Hopefully, in time you will be able to deal with the open storage and the odd refurbishment situation to everybody's satisfaction.

### **Residential Areas:**

All the housing estates in the village were visited and while some work is still being carried out in some of them, generally speaking they are much improved on last year both in terms of presentation and litter control. Open areas are being well looked after and, in many cases, present wonderful opportunities for further tree planting and landscaping. As mentioned in last year's report, it is important that representation from these estates would be on your committee. Perhaps this has already happened, As is usual for Ardmore, individual houses are being very well maintained with lovely gardens which again, added to the overall ambience of the village.

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

Approach roads are very nicely presented, particularly where they are augmented by some lovely landscaping. Road surfaces and car parks are being well maintained also as indeed are footpaths throughout the village. In this connection, great credit is due to your Local Authority for their work.

### **General Impression:**

Ardmore continues to maintain a very high standard and is always a pleasure to visit. In your planning approach, which is very good, try to identify new projects which you might undertake under the various headings of the competition which will gain you additional marks. Ardmore has reached a very high marking in the competition and future marks will be difficult to come by. This can only come about through careful planning and attention to detail and perhaps some innovative new projects. In any event, do not fail to maintain what you already have which is the backbone of your entry. The Adjudicator looks forward to returning to Ardmore again next year to see further progress made.

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

It has been a number of years since this adjudicator last had the pleasure of visiting the village of Ardmore. The Waterford Road affords the visitor a magnificent view to the Round Tower beyond. Some attention is required to the sign over the entrance to the GAA pitch on this road. Perhaps some additional landscaping could be considered at Ardmore Holiday Homes as their Open Space appears somewhat bare at the moment. Some bad staining was evident to houses near the crossroads and also to the Tourist Information Office at the water's edge. Litter control could have been better - odd items of litter were spotted throughout including the Youghal Road. The Main Street looked very well apart from a very neglected property opposite the Post Office, where directional signs also needed attention. Other uncared for properties were spotted by the church at the seafront. Attractive planting was admired at the school and a good use of the Irish language was evident throughout the village. Perhaps an equally effective but more attractive solution could be considered at the beach as the railings and bollards look somewhat inappropriate and unwelcoming. Do ensure that render is not removed from traditional vernacular street buildings as this is not only incorrect from a conservation point of view, but can also lead to problems of water penetration. The colourful garden beside Ardmore Pottery was greatly admired-more landscaping could be considered at the seating area diagonally opposite, however. Ardmore continues to perform well in the competition.