

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ardfield**

Ref: **49**

County: **Cork West**

Mark: **220**

Category: **A**

Date: **01/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	37
The Built Environment	40	31	30
Landscaping	40	33	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	37	37
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	17	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	27
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	220	217

Overall Developmental Approach:

Ardfield is welcome to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission and supporting information all of which was helpful for adjudication. It is good to note that you are conscious of your transition from being an old style, traditional, rural village to being a commuter village and are prepared to meet the challenge involved. Well done on the presentation of many of your older buildings. It is also good to note that you work with statutory bodies and get good community support in the sense of voluntary labour and the donation of equipment. We wish you luck in resolving the problem of the old hall near the church. There are many scenic views on approaching Ardfield from approach roads which should be preserved in the course of future development.

The Built Environment:

The church was beautifully presented and the flower display in containers at the gate pillars were particularly admired. Its stone boundary wall backed by neat hedgerow was complemented by flower displays. The two large gable walls to dwellings near the church are focal points on entering the village from approach roads which were beautifully presented. Well done to their owners. Hopefully the old garage for sale on the Galley Point road will be redeveloped in a manner appropriate to Ardfield. The school looks well with a simple but neat presentation. Well done on work achieved for both the school and the church.

Landscaping:

Landscaping at the granite namestone on the entrance from one approach road was admired as was the water feature at the pump with the stone trough. The perennial flower display in the carpark of the burial grounds was in full bloom at the time of our visit. The green site along the verge to the sports grounds boasted a range of mature, semi-mature and young trees and the elevated site with picnic tables looking across to the church is a nice touch also. The wagon wheel is an interesting feature and the hard surfaced Noel Reddin Memorial enjoys a good presentation.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Montebretia in verges on approach roads was not in bloom at the time of adjudication but was prolific and looked well and one can only anticipate how it will look later in the summer. The wild hedgerow to the rear of trimmed roadside edges are an attractive feature of Ardfield. The boundary wall of one burial grounds had been well painted and the grounds inside were neat to the roadside edge but overgrown further in. A second burial grounds on the periphery of the village was overgrown. The wildlife panel on the utility was noted and appreciated. Perhaps a second wildlife panel could be featured in the designated wildlife area near the church. Again this year the tennis courts are nicely presented with seating as was St. James Park GAA grounds. However the wire and post boundary here could be planted.

Litter Control:

Well done on the sponsoring of a FAS worker by the Tidy Towns for daily litter control. This is clearly an effective measure as the village was litter free at the time of adjudication. We would be interested to hear of any other litter control activities and of your overall litter management strategies as these can be a source of additional marks.

Tidiness:

We note from your submission that you organise an annual spring clean and of course this will have the benefit of increasing community cohesiveness. Apart from a few side areas and road edges the overall appearance of Ardfield was one of tidiness. The derelict stone premises located behind a nameplate had been neatly boarded up and looked tidy. We look forward to future developments at the old hall.

Residential Areas:

The majority of dwellings are beautifully presented. Most appeared to be detached bungalows on their own grounds and the presentation of gardens and boundary walls was admired. Tra Cottage is a charming development. A building site for a new residential development has been noted and we note also the substantial redevelopment of the old Ardfield house. No doubt there will be an influx residents and the challenge now for the committee and the community in general will be to welcome and integrate new residents and to encourage them to participate in the Tidy Towns effort in order that existing standards can be maintained and the village can move on to new heights in the competition.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approach roads to the village were reasonably well presented in terms of their roadside verges and as mentioned already a lot of wildflower including fuschia, dog rose, montebretia, etc were noted and appreciated. Stretches of stonewall on the Galley Point road should be refurbished over a number of years and revealed and highlighted as a feature. The namestone at the entrance from this road was admired also. The upper stretches of the driveway to St. James Park was badly potholed. Well done on the acquisition of the new speed limit signs. It was interesting to note the old style

telephone kiosk.

General Impression:

Ardfield is an attractive village that is undergoing a transition from being an old style, rural village to being a commuter village and it is good to note the committee is prepared to meet the challenge involved.

Second Round Adjudication: