

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ardaghey**

Ref: **148**

County: **Monaghan**

Mark: **190**

Category: **A**

Date: **05/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	34
The Built Environment	40	24	24
Landscaping	40	26	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	13
Litter Control	40	33	32
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	14	14
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	23
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	190	183

Overall Developmental Approach:

The adjudicator would like to thank the Tidy Towns Committee for the detailed village map, photographs, Tidy Towns Action Plan 2003 - 2006, document on your 2005 work programme and the various drawings. Unfortunately these drawings which were numbered were not keyed to any of the documentation received. It is obvious that you enjoy very good community support, and that you work very closely with the Local Authority - all essential for good local Tidy Towns progress.

The Built Environment:

The redeveloped Community Centre and surroundings looked very crisp and clean on adjudication day. Your gates project is very strongly welcomed and Ardaghey is one of the few villages where your adjudicator has seen such an initiative. Have you considered having the gates painted in a co-ordinated colour scheme - what about red or black? The new cobble lock pavement across the road from the Church is a good addition to the village. The under grounding of Eircom cables has been a most important project that makes such a difference to the village. You are involving the pupils at the National School in your local projects and this is a great investment in the future of the village. The adjudicator noted a number of very neat and tidy directional signs that make life so much easier for the visitor. The adjudicator examined the site of the old forge. The restoration of that property could be quite expensive and it might be better to upgrade the surroundings and provide an information plaque giving the long history of the forge.

Landscaping:

The landscaping on your approach roads was excellent, and your planting programme for bulb and bedding plants has obviously been effective in the village. The various hanging baskets and flower tubs added much colour to the village. At the Church and community Centre the various trees continue to prosper.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

It was noted that you are involving the School in wildlife activities and that is a good start. In many towns and villages this is an aspect of the Tidy Towns Competition where there can be significant potential for development. All towns and villages have the presence of wildlife to some degree. It is important that your Tidy Towns Committee would examine further the wildlife potential, and see what you can achieve in terms of making your area even more wildlife friendly. If you have not already done so, the starting point is to have a habitat Survey carried out of the wildlife in your area. Suggested habitats to be considered include the following –

- Urban habitats – gardens, waste ground, walls, graveyards, hedges
- Wetland habitats – rivers, ponds, lakes, canals, reed marsh, bogs
- Woodland habitats – forests, hedgerows, plantations, parks
- Grassland habitats – roadside verges, parks, wet meadows, dry grasslands

The Survey should produce a species list for each of the habitats relevant to your area. This need not be an expensive Survey. Perhaps there is a knowledgeable person in the School who might undertake this task for you. Basically the Survey would identify the animals, plants, birds, fish that inhabit your area and their associated habitats. It should be remembered that to carry out the Survey properly that it will probably take a year so that all habitats can be assessed at different time of the year. Using the results of the Wildlife Survey your next step should be do draft a straight forward Plan to preserve the identified habitats in your area, and investigate the possibility of new ones. For example perhaps there is an old Pond in your area that is disused, but with a little work could be an important area for wildfowl.

As part of the actions to be undertaken in your Wildlife Plan you might like to consider the provision of some weather proof and vandal proof display panels, illustrating and explaining the wildlife in your area. This has been done very successfully in many towns and villages in Ireland.

Litter Control:

Litter control on adjudication day was excellent and you have maintained the good standard observed by the adjudicator in June 2005. The clean up campaigns have obviously kept community awareness of the problems of litter at a high level.

Tidiness:

The poster competition is a great way of raising the community awareness of the tidiness issue. On adjudication day, the overall appearance of Ardagh was very tidy and the under grounding of cables project was an important contribution to the overall appearance of the village. At the telephone box the door was partially off its hinges and need early attention; the telephone box is a most vital facility for the community.

Residential Areas:

Private properties were well presented, and some attractive gardens were also noted, and the landscaping work by property owners contributes in an important way to the overall character of your village. The various hanging baskets and tubs made a great contribution to the overall appearance of the village. Once again the properties near the Church are among those that stood

out from a presentation point of view.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The four approach roads were all very well presented. On the Community Centre approach road the banks were a little brown, and had been cut very tightly. New grass verges had been planted on the Ballybay approach road and will look very well when the area greens up. A frequent problem with approach roads is that there is no road kerb to divide the road surface from the grass verge. A result of this is that verges get badly damaged by parked vehicles. This problem was noted on the Monaghan approach road. Do talk to your Local Authority Engineer about this difficulty. If kerbing looks out of place in your rural setting then perhaps large stones can be used by the Local Authority to define the edge of the roadway.

General Impression:

The work done in the last year in the village is quite impressive and the adjudicator looks forward to further developments in the year ahead.

Second Round Adjudication: