

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ardfinnan**

Ref: **284**

County: **Tipperary South**

Mark: **237**

Category: **B**

Date: **08/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	36
The Built Environment	40	28	27
Landscaping	40	36	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	27	26
Litter Control	40	30	29
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	26	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	30
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>232</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Many thanks for your useful and informative submission. Ardfinnan Tidy Towns Committee has obviously been very busy this year. Your very colourful map was most useful on the day. You only submitted the section of your five year plan which is relevant to this year - do ensure that next year you submit the entire document, in order that the adjudicators can see your progress in relation to the overall scheme of things!

### The Built Environment:

The Pure Drop looked very fresh on the Clonmel side of the town. The National School looked well with some quite wonderful colourful murals to the inside of its boundary wall. Ardfinnan is indeed fortunate with its wealth of heritage structures such as Ardfinnan Castle and its unique bridge. Do discourage the use of curved plastic canopies and encourage their replacement with traditional fabric awnings. Hackett's, the Credit Union and Blackwells were all quite fresh - perhaps some landscaping could be considered at this latter garage. The church looked extremely well. There are a number of derelict and empty buildings, such as that at the top of the hill on Main Street. The large building, (which could be the Hall?), on Main Street looked somewhat neglected also. Do paint the Post Office before next year's competition. The Greenview Bar looked well, but its plastic advertising signs should be removed.

## **Landscaping:**

The attractive traditional village pump was freshly painted on the Clonmel approach. The large expanse of Village Green, with its magnificent playing fields looked well, with well maintained grass and new timber bridges spanning across to it. Picnic tables were in good condition and it seemed to be used well on the day. The new park, Pleasant Way, certainly suits its name! It looked extremely well on the day, with stone seats and bridges. The entranceway to it is quite neat but maybe some landscaping here to make it more appealing as an entry would be in order, as at the moment it doesn't really give the visitor an adequate impression of what you're about to see. Do bear in mind that rear areas along Main Street are now visible from here and therefore will need to be considered in terms of presentation. Some additional landscaping could be considered at Campus Oil to soften the somewhat harsh appearance of its forecourt area. The attractive stone beds with permanent planting on the Clonmel Road were greatly admired as were the hanging baskets throughout the town. The picnic area on the Clogheen Road looked well but the draw-in area looked a little rough. The attractive gravelled beds at junction of this road with the Cahir Road were admired.

## **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

You have certainly been extremely busy in relation to this aspect of the competition! Full marks are due to Swan Sheds for supplying timber for the bird box project at the school! Your plans for the wildlife board are commendable, as is the idea of covers for the wildlife on the Village Green. The adjudicator looks forward to reading the children's survey of wildlife in the area, next year. Wild flowers evident on the Clonmel / Cahir Road were admired.

## **Litter Control:**

The standard of litter control on the day was very good, given the size of the town and the problems that you have had in relation to this in the past. One or two papers were evident on the Clonmel Road and on the Village Green but generally the town was reasonably free of litter.

## **Tidiness:**

The town generally had a neat and ordered appearance. Do discourage flyposting, as this can give a rather cluttered impression to roadsides. Some weeds were apparent to new kerbs on the Clonmel approach to the town. A rusty tin roof to an empty cottage on the Clonmel side of the town should be attended to and the curved tin roof to Lambert's Garage should be repainted in its traditional red colour. The door appeared to be missing from the phone box at St. Finnan's Estate.

## **Residential Areas:**

The Clonmel Road sported some well maintained boundary walls and some of the houses have extended their area of interest to the roadsides to create a very pleasant effect. Some marvellous single storey houses on the Clonmel Road with colourful displays outside were greatly admired. In terms of housing estates, Castle View looked well and St. Finnan's looked extremely well with its expanse of open green. However, the empty window boxes on the timber fence should perhaps be removed as they are somewhat superfluous. The display of Michaelmas daisies was greatly admired. Attractive rosebeds were admired outside Hy Brassil. The hanging baskets leading along the roadway from Castle View to St. Finnan's looked well. Lady's Abbey was under construction in this location on the day and hopefully will be finished to a high standard from the point of view of materials and landscaping.

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

Wild roses and honeysuckle were admired in the hedgerows on the Clonmel Road. This road sported well cut grass verges and newly planted ash trees. The wonderful hand painted welcome signs were admired as were the new pavements on this side of the town. The standard on the Newcastle Road was not as good unfortunately. Although the hedgerows were fine possibly the grass could be

strimmed at the base? Valerian, wild roses and ferns were admired in the hedgerows but unfortunately the town nameplate was virtually obscured by overgrowth. Swan Sheds entrance area and boundary contributes well on the Clogheen Road. This road was well maintained with the relatively new trees coming along well and the roadsides generally being well cared for.

### **General Impression:**

Ardfinnan Tidy Towns Committee has much to congratulate itself for, as the town has continued to progress well in the competition over the last number of years. It is always pleasing to see towns taking on board the comments made by judges from year to year and acting upon them! Well done to all concerned. It was a pleasure for this adjudicator to visit the town for the first time.

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

Your 2nd round adjudicator had not visited Ardfinnan before and it was a pleasure to visit on a bright August afternoon. The River Suir is such a major asset in visual terms for the village and it is encouraging to see that it plays such a full role in the life of Ardfinnan. In the past some villages and towns have turned their back on such natural assets. The wide street / road at the Catholic Church and the extremely large green and the nearby island provide an excellent introduction to the village proper from the Clonmel approach. On the Clonmel approach the grass and landscaping presentation is excellent as it is on the Clogheen road. On the Clogheen road the natural rock here forms a good natural backdrop to the man made landscaping. Just before the bridge on the Clonmel side an untidy area was noted on the right hand side just at the petrol pumps. There was a pile of stones and other materials here. A few pieces of litter were noted on some of the grass landscaped area, but otherwise litter control was quite good on the day of 2nd adjudication.

The marks awarded to Ardfinnan by the 1st round adjudicator are high and the 2nd round adjudicator fully endorses the earlier marks allocation.