

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ardmore**

Ref: **392**

County: **Waterford**

Mark: **257**

Category: **B**

Date: **05/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	45	44
The Built Environment	40	35	35
Landscaping	40	30	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	24
Litter Control	40	38	38
Tidiness	20	16	17
Residential Areas	30	26	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	34	34
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	257	254

Overall Developmental Approach:

It is gratifying to read that you continue to have the support of Waterford County Council, FAS, Tourist Board and your local residents for your Tidy Towns programme of work the results of which were to be seen in Ardmore on adjudication day. All the documents and information sent with your entry form were read and much appreciated as was the map. Your indexed plan made it very simple to identify the various projects which have been completed, are underway or are planned and this is a very practical approach on which you are to be commended.

The Built Environment:

A very high level of maintenance has been achieved again this year on your Church, Health Centre, Garda Station, School, Hall and Tourist Office – the latter looking resplendent with its new coat of paint. The Round Tower and the Cemetery are also being maintained to a very high standard. The fountain and the Monuments were much admired as indeed were your stone walls and street furniture. Most commercial premises again this year looked well. Unfortunately the An Tig Beag problem is still with you and the area of the amusements looks somewhat run down. Some walls throughout the village look somewhat flakey and could well do with a coat of paint. The beach and the seafront area were very nicely presented indeed. However, in the case of the latter, loose grit and stones look somewhat untidy. It would not take very much to rectify this situation. The two thatched cottages in the center of the village are a lovely feature. One however is particularly in need of painting.

Landscaping:

Landscaping is being maintained to a very high standard and creates a lovely atmosphere throughout the village. In particular, flowers, trees and shrubs provided at the junction of the main street, on the Youghal road and in the vicinity of the Round Tower, were much admired. The school grounds and the grounds of the Round Tower Hotel are being very well maintained and where provided, tubs of flowers, window boxes, hanging baskets and planters throughout the village looked lovely and reflect great credit on those who provided them. Landscaping is, indeed, one of the main strengths of your Tidy Towns effort and you are to be congratulated on it.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your comments under this heading and your plans for the restoration of the stream and scenic walks are a very good approach to the gaining of additional marks. The wildlife boards on the Round Tower road and the cliff walk/ Declans Hermitage are a great addition and together with your leaflet will be a very nice attraction for both residents and visitors alike. The adjudicator looks forward to seeing further progress with these projects.

Litter Control:

The beach area was completely free of litter as indeed was most of the village. Unfortunately some littering was to be seen in the vicinity of the car park and entrance to Declans Hermitage, on the Youghal road and at odd places throughout the village. Additional bins were noted and overall a great effort is being made. Do monitor the situation on a day to day basis as it is an important part of the competition.

Tidiness:

Mainly because of building taking place there was a general air of untidiness on the Dungarvan approach. Indeed throughout the village an enormous amount of building is taking place which creates this type of untidiness and which will pass. In the interim this has been allowed for in the adjudication. Visual open storage on the Dungarvan approach was also to be seen. Perhaps the owners of this premise could be encouraged to provide a screen of some sort (e.g. trees or fast growing shrubs) which would greatly improve the overall appearance of what is, in general, a very nice approach. The village was presented in a very neat and tidy manner again this year and great credit is due to your commercial premises and residents alike for this. Open storage of timber continues to be a problem which has now been with you for quite a long time.

Residential Areas:

A substantial amount of building has taken place in Ardmore over the last couple of years by way of holiday homes and housing estates. In general these are being well maintained and their open spaces looked well on adjudication day. Broken down and fallen signs on the large housing estate on the upper road did nothing for its appearance and should be removed as quickly possible. Ardmore has very attractive individual houses and many had lovely gardens in full bloom on adjudication day which were a joy to behold. This type of individual effort is very important in the competition in a small centre. Well done to all concerned.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The appearances of approach roads, which are very important in the competition, were to be admired this year. Some lovely landscaping was to be seen and grass verges, in the main, were trimmed. Road surfaces and pathways throughout the village are being well maintained. Unfortunately however, some side roads are very poorly surfaced particularly those leading to new houses and housing estates. Hopefully work on these will proceed in time. In the main however

your Local Authority is doing an excellent job. Car park surfaces are quite good and have improved on last year. Your new bi-lingual signs look very well indeed and are being well cared for.

General Impression:

Comments made in last years report under this heading still apply. Careful planning and attention to detail will gain you additional marks and all the indications are that you are heading in that direction. Some wonderful efforts are being made collectively and individually throughout the village particularly in the area of landscaping and tidiness and general maintenance is of a very high level. Keep up the good work.

Second Round Adjudication:

The round tower acts as a beacon drawing one ever nearer to the village. Despite the comments made above under tidiness the Dungarvan approach as usual was noted for its neat grass verges and those gardens which seem to extend to the roadside. On the other hand some fences were in need of attention. The Youghal road would have benefitted from some cutting back of overgrowth. It is a pity that the back of some new houses face the Youghal road – perhaps a row of trees could be planted on the verge. In the early morning sunlight the sea was glistening. The brightly painted buildings along the street created a cheerful atmosphere but a few shabby and neglected buildings diminished the effect. Gaps between buildings in places need attention. It is firmly believed that the fountain is far too small for its location – a tall sculpture would be highly preferable. The bottle bank area was relatively neat but there is considerable scope to enhance the carpark. The storage of materials in prominent view has been referred to many times over the years. The toilets (at least the gents) could only be described as disgusting! The high standard of litter control is commendable. The mature upper roads with their quite distinctive ambience are always enjoyed. We look forward to returning next year.