

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ardclough**

Ref: **751**

County: **Kildare**

Mark: **188**

Category: **B**

Date: **01/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27	27
The Built Environment	40	25	24
Landscaping	40	27	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	28	26
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	23
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	188	185

Overall Developmental Approach:

The map supplied with the entry form was a useful guide to this lovely small village. Even with a village this size it is important to plan ahead all the projects in mind so that a schedule of work can be planned over the next three to five years. Having a committee of 14 members gives great strength and by focusing on particular issues that need to be addressed in the village a plan would act as a guide forward.

The Built Environment:

The Church looks very well with its slatted roof. There is severe staining along the wall facing the road and hopefully that can be remedied. The stonework bounding the carpark at the church is very attractive as indeed are the stonewalls along the roadside by the church and towards the shop. The Daniel Graham memorial building is attractive and adds a new style to the village. The school is in good condition – some attention to paint on the prefab section would be helpful. The entrance to Lishandra Manor is attractive.

Landscaping:

The triangle at the village centre is most attractive with well-positioned shrubs and birch trees – these will provide good interest all year round. It is attractive to have the natural hedge as a

backdrop to this feature. The church grounds also are richly planted with an attractive range of trees and shrubs and the combination of the purple foliage with the greens and the blue Cedar gives a good contrast. Tree and shrub planting opposite the Lishandra Manor needs attention. This appears to have become very weedy and the paths and seat are obscured by the weed growth- however there is a good collection of plants there and when sorted out will advance well. Gardens contribute well to the appearance of the village and good efforts are being made in this regard. The entrance to the Wheatfield estate also contributes well.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The rural hedgerows and the proximity to the canal offer very good potential for wildlife observation. Some projects should be considered that would avail of these. Working with the school and gathering local information could assemble a compendium of wildlife facts that would then become available.

Litter Control:

There is a very good level of litter control in and around the village. A small amount of litter was noted in the carpark and along some roadsides but the overall picture is very positive and a clean impression is very evident.

Tidiness:

Ardclough is a very tidy village – helped greatly by the organisation of the triangle in the village centre and the well-tended hedge and fence by the school and clean walls by the school and shop. The area as mentioned above opposite the Lishandra Manor is a little uncared for and hopefully that can be resolved. Some underground cables are used for the lamps on the triangle and hopefully further work of undergrounding cables will happen in the future.

Residential Areas:

The Wheatfield estate looks very well – both the entrance with the well-tended grass and plantings and also individual houses and gardens through the estate. The contribution that each individual home, garden and road frontage can make in a housing estate is sizable as the complete appearance of such an estate is the combination of all houses. Individual houses along the roads look well and also add to the pleasant picture of this village.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Roads are in good condition generally. The tree planting to the Celbridge side is extensive and much work has been done in the past in this regard. These trees are maturing well. Roadside hedgerows look well yet the thorn hedges in places is being threatened by briars and elder- it would be wise to set a target for the maintenance of these valuable hedges in future planning.

General Impression:

Ardclough is a very pleasant village to visit and the well cared for appearance shows the committee and the residents have a great pride in their village.

Second Round Adjudication: