

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ardfert** Ref: **677**
County: **Kerry** Mark: **222**
Category: **B** Date(s): **22/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	30
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	28
Waste Minimisation	20	3
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	222

Overall Development Approach:

Ardfert is welcome to the 2006 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission, which facilitated adjudication. Ardfert is an historic village located on the Akeragh Way and features the historical remains of Ardfert Cathedral which dominates the skyline from approach roads, particularly the Ballyheigue approach road. At the time of adjudication work was in progress at the Cathedral, we note from your submission that you have the support of Kerry County Council and that you liaise with parents for voluntary work. The committee should not be discouraged by the amount of work that is necessary in the Tidy Towns competition and it is acknowledged that it is hard work for new entrants but your achievements will build up gradually over the next few years and culminate in a village which will be presented to a high standard.

The Built Environment:

A number of premises were presented quite well and these included Kate Browns Pub, McElligots Bar, the Abbey Tavern. The Ardfert Medical Centre has been considered for three awards including the Irish Shop Front award. The Ardfert Plant & Tool Hire premises could improve on its roadside presentation, given its important location in the village centre. The church is an attractive building and St Brendans Community Hall looks well also. At the time of our visit the Old Parish Hall had a site notice attached which suggests redevelopment, the building has some attractive architectural features. Work was in progress to Atlantic Oils. It is suggested that the outsized Ardfert Furniture and Carpet sign be removed together with the sale banner over the Tile Master premises

Landscaping:

Well done on the clearing of rough growth on the banks of the Tyshe River and the clearing of rough growth around the telephone box area. The latter site however was sprouting weeds at the time of our visit so planting here appears not to have become well established or perhaps it was not planted. The church burial grounds were neatly presented and the eschalon hedge inside the school boundary wall was been met by long weeds at its base climbing up to meet it. The green in the village centre has been nicely landscaped and young trees here are establishing themselves well.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The clearing planting at the Tyshe River bank has already been referred to above as has the overall appearance of the Green. Pairc Naomh Brendain looked quite well but the graveyard however was quite overgrown. Care must be taken with any future work planned for the graveyard and you are referred to the Department's publications *The Care and Conservation of Graveyards*; graves here date back to the 1700s so this site has considerable historical significance. A wildlife survey might be undertaken for Flora or Fauna or both and the results published on wildlife interpretative panels to heighten awareness and appreciation of the wildlife of Ardfert.

Litter Control:

Well done on your monthly clean ups and the links established with Kerry County Council regarding the provision of resources to deal with litter management together with the removal of rubbish. Litter control was reasonably good on adjudication day however roadside verges along the Ballyheigue Road were littered. We wish you well in your request to Kerry County Council for a street cleaner.

Waste Minimisation:

Your recycling point in the Texaco Garage is neatly presented and provides a good opportunity for recycling facilities within the community. To perform well under this heading it is necessary to be creative in finding ways to minimise the amount of waste generated by the community in addition to providing for recycling. Your Race Against Waste literature, which you received from the Department, will be helpful in this regard.

Tidiness:

A large site with open storage just inside the speed limit sign on one approach road was problematic in appearance as it looked quite untidy. The Memorial to the people killed in the village by the Black and Tans was weedy and its wall weather stained. Weedy footpaths were a feature at the time of adjudication not withstanding the maintenance of kerbs noted in your submission. The yard of Kerry Agri & Farm Stores needs better enclosure.

Residential Areas:

Older residential developments such as Casement View and Walnut Grove are quite well presented in respect of the maintenance of their green areas and their attractive name stones. Some of the newer developments have yet to be landscaped. An estate on Station Road is in need of rehabilitation in respect of cleaning and painting of dwellings and boundary walls and greater weed control, a nameplate should also be provided. The new development of single storey and two storey dwellings located behind Ardfert Medical Centre is attractive and work in progress appears to be continuing here. Some charming cottages with attractive architectural features have been noted. Encourage residents to take responsibility for their roadside boundary walls and roadside areas to their boundary walls.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Verges of approach roads were natural and looked quite well however the nameplate at one entrance was in need of rehabilitation and was almost buried in the growth (the road by the church). Reveal and refurbish as much as possible the stone wall of the Ballyheigue Road. The footpath on the Tralee Road looked well, as did the nameplate here. The wire-scaped appearance of the street leading to the Cathedral has strong visual amenity value and the attractive lampstandards here were noted.

General Impression:

Ardfert is a village with attractive and historic features and is well-situated in beautiful countryside. The village has potential for success in the Tidy Towns Competition and we encourage you to prepare a planned work

programme which will give you a greater focus in your Tidy Towns related activities and ease your progress through the competition.