

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Adare** Ref: **440**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **277**
Category: **C** Date(s): **12/06/2006**
25/08/2006

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	45
The Built Environment	50	36
Landscaping	50	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	28
Litter Control	50	34
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	37
General Impression	10	9
TOTAL MARK	400	277

Overall Development Approach:

Adare Tidy Towns and Development Association is welcome to the National Tidy Towns Competition 2006. Thank you for your well completed entry form and detailed Works Programme for 2006. The map had several numbers and dots in varying colours, but no explanation as to what they referred to, so perhaps for next year you might add details to the numbers please. I note you have a large committee and, besides the monthly meetings, hold public meetings to foster support for your activities, and also involve the school children in your litter clean-ups. Support is received from Limerick County Council, and financial support is received from the Adare Hotels Group, local businesses and the Church gate collection. Well done in succeeding in getting the support of so many bodies, essential to making things happen in the town. You are well deserving of the high mark awarded under this category.

The Built Environment:

The main thoroughfare in Adare has a unique streetscape, and many of the commercial premises are well presented, including the Dunraven Arms Hotel; the Pharmacy; Lloyds Coffee Shop; Park Avenue; Casey & Co; The Arches; Vokes; Lena's; Collins Bar; Bill Chawke's, Munster Fine Art and the former P J Hogan's. The Adare Manor Hotel and Golf Resort is a magnificent property, the course is most challenging and now looks forward to hosting the Irish Open in 2007. In the thatched cottages, The Wild Geese; the Inn Between; Lucy Erridge, Stackpool's and the Adare Cottage Shop were all charmingly presented. As were some of the more modern premises like The K Boutique, Falcoln Travel and the Golden Dragon, and the AIB was still under reconstruction. The Centra building was still under cover and the fine Town Hall reconstruction looked close to completion. The Heritage Centre, housing the Museum, Tourist Information Office, Library and many other businesses was very busy on the day, and the Garda Station and Credit Union looked very smart. The School, grounds and boundary fence were all maintained to a standard, and I observed the Green Flag proudly flying – well done. The old creamery building now houses some commercial operations, but the

rusting roofed buildings and the back area and boundary walls all need attention. At the GAA complex the building, parking area needs attention, and the boundary wall would benefit from some form of screening, like some variegated ivy plants. The adjudicator took time to visit the Trinitarian Monastery, which is a splendid church, and admired the entrance area to Our Lady's Abbey Primary School. The Methodist Church, and somewhat modern play group centre, also looked well. The Augustinian Abbey, housing St Nicholas' Church of Ireland, was well presented to the fore, but the collection of old rubber tyres, viewed from the riverside walk, should be screened. The Desmond Castle restoration work is still ongoing, which when complete will be a superb visitor attraction, but a foot bridge will be needed for pedestrian visitors to this site. Your many plans documented in the entry from, including the development of a Sports Complex, is noted.

Landscaping:

One could not but notice the wonderful array of hanging baskets all about the village, an enormous task for those to have to maintain them – well done. Some of the commercial premises also sported lovely floral displays like The Arches, Lucy Erridge, Bill Chawkes, Credit Union, Adare Iron Works and the gardens in the Dunraven Arms and Embery Close were splendid. On the approach from Limerick the display at the Lantern Lodge was admired, as were the beds filled with red roses and tasteful display of red summer begonia. The tree surgeon had done a fine job on the mature beech trees on the Rathkeale road. The wishing Pool beside the Town Park was lovely, as were all the landscaped features in the Park, but most of the seats needed painting and some had graffiti on them. The planning notice for a children's playground was observed. The planting by the entrance to Our Lady's school was admired, and many of the private dwellings about the village had beautiful floral displays. The village really looked well, despite the lack of sunshine. It is noted that you are investigating a proposed Garden of Remembrance at St Nicholas, and planning a stepping-stone path on the grass verge from the hotel to the priory.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The adjudicator enjoyed a short walk along the River Maigue and thought the words etched in stone "Where glides the Maigue as silver clear among the elms so sweetly flowing..." aptly summed up this lovely area – a natural wildlife sanctuary. Are you keeping it a secret? Or perhaps I missed the sign... Again the seats need painting. The plan to erect an illustrated Information Board, with bi-lingual descriptions by the River Walk is noted.

Litter Control:

The litter patrols are doing well and the standard in this category was good. Besides the dreaded cigarette butts, some litter was noted on a laneway to the left on the Curraghchase Road, and a few pieces blowing around in the car park of St Nicholas. You have many litter bins and they were in good condition.

Waste Minimisation:

The bring bank area, with recycling bins for bottles, plastic, drink and food cans, and clothing was noted, but the area and the containers need cleaning. The adjudicator also noted the triple blue bin at the back entrance to the Heritage Centre encouraging visitors to dispose of their newspapers, plastic bottles and drink cans. Your Race Against Waste booklet will also give you other ideas on this subject and you may also get some useful information on this from the Environmental Section of Limerick County Council.

Tidiness:

Just a few areas needing attention – an old gate and broken down wall at the entrance to Deer Park; the parking area by the old railway station is full of weeds and it is also weedy by the old Co-op, and some old buildings with rusting roofs close by are unsightly. And the dumping of garden refuse, etc by the entrance to Adare Village Cottages should be discouraged. It is noted that you are in discussion with the owners of the derelict premises in the village, with a view improving this situation.

Residential Areas:

The village does present well in this area, and it would seem that the residents of Adare take great pride in their homes and gardens. The dwellings in Deer Park presented well, many had lovely floral displays, and the greens and tree plantings were in good order. The houses in the new developments of Manor Court and Fisherman's Warf Apartments looked well, but there was a lack of weed control by the kerbs. Park Avenue, with its lovely green area and very mature trees, looked well, as did the other estates. The standard is very high overall, and it would be unfair to single out one dwelling or terrace over another.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Again this year all the approach roads to the village were presented well, with hedges and verges neat and tidy. The signage on the approach roads was also good. However, the Information Board by the Town Park is weathered and does need repainting.

General Impression:

Adare – ford of the oaks – is a village of outstanding beauty, has a great heritage to nurture, and attracts tourists from all corners of the world. Your difficulties with the heavy volume of traffic, and as experienced by the adjudicator when trying to cross the bridge over the Maigue, is well documented. Adare, former winners of the Tidy Towns, has the potential to do it again. Well done to all concerned and best of luck in your future endeavours.

Second Round Adjudication:

A visit to the beautiful village of Adare brings you very close to living history. Adare a village with three abbeys and a castle reflecting the 13th and 14th centuries has managed to combine the needs of buildings of historical significance with the needs of an important visitor centre. One of the signature features of Adare is the skillful use that is made of appropriate colours in the built environment. Many of the buildings appear to have been recently painted; some have interesting architectural detailing such as the green building beside the Vokes Hardware property. Beautiful stone buildings are another characteristic of the village and the Town Hall dating from 1911 in its prominent location at the top of the village quickly catches the eye. The thatched cottages so beautifully presented and dating from 1825 are probably the signature feature of Adare. The Heritage Centre and ecclesiastical buildings were all excellently presented. At the entrance to the Town Park the town map is rather faded and needs to be re-painted. The Town Park is a really attractive area and the long Chestnut Tree lined avenue is a spectacular feature of this extremely well maintained area. The low hedging in Boxwood was much admired as was the central thatched circular area. Quite a lot of litter was noted on the approach roads to Adare and in a few locations in the village centre. For example litter was noted in the small stream behind the AIB premises, at the Town Trail sign to the side of Lena's Bar, and a lot of litter was noted in the interesting Dove Cot. Weed growth at the road boundary wall of the GAA premises and at the car park near the railway level crossing needs attention. Excellent work over many years has been done on landscaping both in Adare and on the Limerick approach road. The second round adjudicator would like to wish you well with your projects for Tidy Towns in 2007.