

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ardpatrick** Ref: **441**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **270**
Category: **A** Date(s): **14/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	38
The Built Environment	50	36
Landscaping	50	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	36
Waste Minimisation	20	12
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	35
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	270

Overall Development Approach:

Ardpatrick is welcome to the National Tidy Towns Competition 2006 and thank you for your welcome to the village. Your well completed entry form, well executed map and accompanying documentation is appreciated and helped greatly on adjudication day. Your committee of thirteen is commended for the way in which you involve so many of the community in your activities, including the school children's production of the newsletter. It is noted that you are also supported in your activities by the Limerick County Council; Ballyhoura Development; the Local Drama Group and Festival Committee, and good luck with the Na Fianna Festival.

The Built Environment:

There was a wedding due to take place in the afternoon of adjudication, and Church and grounds were immaculate and a credit to all those who maintain them, and noted the millennium plaque was in place by the sycamore tree. The Community Centre was also well presented, as was the School and grounds, and a planning notice to replace the old wall was observed. The side building of the fine old Sunvale Inn property is being well screened by the ivy planting, but the gable wall is weather stained. The O'Sullivan's garage would benefit from a new sign, and while the front of the Greenwood Inn and surrounding gardens looked well, the back yard needs tidying.

Landscaping:

The adjudicator had the pleasure of a picnic lunch in Bishop Murphy Park and had time to observe the beautifully landscaped gardens and grotto with the well trimmed euonymus and dwarf conifers; spirea; New Zealand flax; hypericum, hydrangea, etc surrounded by red maples. The timber edging project was almost complete. The new planting at the traffic island is most attractive, as is the shrubbery backing the Ardpatrick sign, and noted the Carrig Mor garden is well under way, with some of the plantings already looking colourful.

The many flower containers at the Church, Community Centre and School were much admired, as was the lovely clipped beech planting on the Kilfinane road and the Hypericum hedge opposite the church. The wire fenced green area opposite the Church would look well with a planting of, say, silver birch. Well done to those who maintain the floral displays to such a high standard.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Well done on continuing the Nesting Bird Survey this year and pleased to note that the resident herons have raised three chicks this year, and that you have erected nesting boxes in the school grounds. Pleased to note that you have received a grant from the County Council for the erection of a Wild Bird Information Board which you plan to erect by the well maintained pump, and that you also have plans for a new Heritage Board.

Litter Control:

The adjudicator could count on one hand the amount of litter in the village, including two tissues and one crisp bag, so well done to those involved in litter control in the village. And also for involving the school children in the Spring Clean project.

Waste Minimisation:

The School was proudly displaying their Green Flag, and your bring bank was in good order and caters for recycling bottles, drink and food cans, and you are in close proximity to the Limerick County Council Recycling Centre in Kilmallock, and could consider organizing van/car runs to this facility. Having access to a wood shredder is great, and using it as for mulching in Carrig Mor is commendable. You may also get some useful information on this category from the Environmental Section of Limerick County Council.

Tidiness:

Generally the village presented well in this category, but the Kilfinane access could be improved if the farm yard, with all the bags of silage and old car tyres, was screened in some way. The timber screening on the old Co-op building works a treat.

Residential Areas:

There are many private dwellings, old and new, in the village and most are presented to a very high standard and are a credit to their owners. You mention in your notes that there is a planning request for the construction of thirty-two new dwellings in the village, and awaiting news on the building of a nursing home.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The signage was in good condition and the hedgerows and verges on all approaches neat and tidy, and congratulations to those in the village who volunteer to carry out this work. The pavements were also in good condition, but the road surfaces varied.

General Impression:

One gets a great sense of pride as one walks through the village of Ardpatrick. Your committee is commended for the manner in which you have maintained such a high standard in the competition. Ardpatrick is a charming place for both locals and visitors to enjoy. Well done and good luck.