

# Tidy Towns Competition 2006

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Ardaghey** Ref: **529**  
County: **Monaghan** Mark: **209**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **14/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	27
Landscaping	50	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	34
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>209</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Your inventory of works completed over the past six years is impressive, and your targets for the next two years admirable. There is nothing like a well thought out list to concentrate the mind and create enthusiasm! The photographs supplied showed what an impact your work has made on the village in such a comparatively short time. Your map was singularly helpful in identifying all relevant features. Your mark under this heading is among the highest in the county (18 centres).

### **The Built Environment:**

The handsome church is the centrepiece of the village, situated in its spacious lawn (mercifully not broken up with flowerbeds) and pleasant shrubbery. The belfry gable will need freshening up with paint within the next couple of years. The Community Centre looked bright and inviting: what a pity it was not situated nearer the road and the rather bleak car-park placed behind it; the bare effect could be overcome by planting along the roadside or by the (expensive) creation of a long feature across the centre (parallel to the building) - a wooden fence or hedge with shrubbery perhaps, and entrance/exit at either end. However, marks are not deducted for what might have been. The restoration of the forge has been a major project. Future improvements might be the replacement of the corrugated roof (not very 1898!) with slates, and the cement window blocks with stone. It was good to read the beautifully expressed eulogy to Paddy Murphy: these things matter in our increasingly materialistic world.

### **Landscaping:**

It was good to read that you plant bulbs for spring flowering: it is one of the precepts of the competition that a village should look well at all times of the year. Beds and tubs were noted at salient points throughout the village. The small shrubbery at Bog Road will make its impact in a surprisingly short time.

**Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The wild life garden on the corner by the forge, with its conifers and seating area, is a good start. All tree-planting comes under this category, whether alongside roads, in private properties or in designated woods. When further shrubberies or hedges are planned, consider berry-bearing plants.

**Litter Control:**

The 'ongoing litter control' which you mention has clearly paid dividends. It is good to read that schoolchildren are involved. Congratulations on the community effort.

**Waste Minimisation:**

This is a slightly above the nominal average mark given in the first year of this new category - a category that will increase in importance as time goes on - because of your reporting the segregation of waste material into proper containers. The Race Against Waste booklet which accompanied this year's Tidy Towns entry form provides a lot of good ideas for developing this work further and gaining more marks under this category.

**Tidiness:**

This is a comparatively tidy village. The neat and extensive fencing, and the trimming of verges, contributes immeasurably. Suggest that farm buildings, visible from the church road, be whitewashed: this would have an immediately favourable impact much greater than what might be imagined.

**Residential Areas:**

All of Ardagh is residential, and you do not have the problems associated with large-scale housing estates. Incidentally, if new housing is planned, use your influence to impress on the local Council and the Developer of the desirability to create dwellings within the village and not at some remote location. No house was seen in Ardagh that was not a credit to its owners. An important element to be mentioned once again is the tidiness of boundary fences, walls and hedges.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Road surfaces were generally good, though the widening of Lisleitrim road has meant that resurfacing is needed alongside the verge. Paving is very good. The stylish lamp standards make a first rate contribution to the appearance of the main street.

**General Impression:**

This has been an exceptionally pleasant village to visit and assess - the task made much easier by the clear information given on your entry form. In addition, the 'invisible' element shines forth, if this is possible: the community effort combined with the acute awareness of the traditions of the locality. May your further efforts prosper.