

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ardattin** Ref: **31**
County: **Carlow** Mark: **270**
Category: **A** Date(s): **16/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	39
The Built Environment	50	36
Landscaping	50	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	26
Litter Control	50	35
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	36
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	270

Overall Development Approach:

Ardattin is a beautiful hamlet in the Carlow countryside. Welcome to the Tidy Towns Competition 2007. We note you have increased your committee to twelve which is good news. We note also your funding sources at Carlow County Council, FAS and LEADER, your continued involvement in the school and your plan for the area of field outside the housing development on the "T" shaped road layout. There is a beautiful church and graveyard and a fine school in the village. A lovely meal was had anonymously in the new and friendly restaurant opened at the Ardattin Inn. There are also houses and buildings of traditional style and scale. There is a local authority housing development off the Tullow road and there is also a community hall on the other side of the same road.

The Built Environment:

The village basis is in Carlow granite and this has been used in the construction of many attractive dry stone walls and local buildings. All buildings are beautifully constructed and it is good to see business activity in the handsomely appointed stone craft shop and new restaurant. Beside the craft shop are well maintained, clean public toilets, including one for wheelchairs. This is very much to your credit because they are not provided in many other villages in the county.

On the day of inspection however there was one black spot, namely the old handball court which, while being well painted on the outside, on further inspection revealed a back entrance down steps into the old court structure. It was full of miscellaneous rubbish. This rubbish could also be seen dumped in plastic bags behind the timber fence. We feel that fire brigade action is required to clean up the area, renovate and secure the structure for an agreed common public use, possibly as a handball alley. This could be administered by the school or parish or the Tidy Towns committee. Irish should be used as well as English on all signs.

Landscaping:

We were very appreciative of planting which looks well on dry stone walls. Especially noted was the pump off the Ballon road with its lovely creeper growing on the dry stone wall. The landscaping of the church, school and community centre were all of a high standard and all three sites very well finished and attractive. More thought could be given to the improving of useable open space in the area between Tullow road and the housing development for parking and landscaping as suggested in your application form. This could be used to great advantage for community purposes which could bring life and business to the village.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

We noticed the hedgerows which have been maintained along one side of the large field between the housing development and the Tullow Road. This is a very large field containing lots of wild flowers. We would suggest that the end of the field next to the hedgerow should be let go wild to allow for natural habitats. The nature boards were located on the other side of the Tullow road from the school in front of a large wild meadow. They were very well researched by the school and were of excellent quality.

Litter Control:

This was very good throughout the village on the day of the adjudication. The only identifiable black spot was in and around the hand ball court which we feel should be tackled before next year to avoid things getting worse.

There is a composting area behind the ball court but this has been contaminated by dumping. There are wheel bins in several places which are neatly packed, but we could not find any bring banks.

Waste Minimisation:

To perform to a high standard under this heading it is necessary too encourage all sectors of the community to survey the amount of waste generated by themselves and to formulate strategies to minimise the amount produced, as opposed to simply collecting waste for recycling. We anticipate a performance of excellence under this heading in the years to come given your track record to date in every other respect. The Race against Waste booklet included in this year's Tidy Towns pack contains a number of good ideas on this.

Tidiness:

Signs were generally clean and tidy with the exception of some graffiti on one near the school. There are little overhead wires to be seen in the town having been placed underground and good quality public lighting. Traffic management is good and simple and there is no weed growth on the kerbs in the street.

Residential Areas:

Both developments are very well presented and maintained. Gardens are very attractive and bright. There is need however for timber fencing or screen planting in the back gardens because they can be seen from the Ballon road. It is a very good sign for the future that more houses are being built. Estate signage should be in Irish as well as English

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

All approach roads are very attractive and with lots of natural vegetation and flowers which form favourable habitats. The entrances to the village are beautifully landscaped with lovely dry stone traditional granite walls. Village entrance signs and street signs are very well maintained. Roads through the whole village and footpaths are well maintained as are the hedgerows.

General Impression:

The village is of small scale, traditional character and constructed in local granite. New housing is concealed and well landscaped. Well done on facing the challenges to date. We look forward to seeing further developments in the big field on the Tullow road which will become a topic for discussion within your committee.

