

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ardlougher** Ref: **1395**
County: **Cavan** Mark: **177**
Category: **A** Date(s): **12/08/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	22
Landscaping	50	20
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	25
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	13
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	22
General Impression	10	5
TOTAL MARK	400	177

Overall Development Approach:

Ardlougher is welcome to the National Tidy Towns Competition. The village is a crossroads village located on a fairly busy road against a backdrop of woodland and lakeland areas. Although the village has no public buildings it appears to be growing fast as a number of new residential developments have been noted. One of your tasks will be to try and retain your rural character in the event of your growing residential status.

The Built Environment:

The black and yellow traffic marking on the wall is in need of refurbishment in the village centre and the public house located on the Swanlinbar/Belturbet Road should feature an attractive name sign, otherwise it looks quite well however the boundary wall to its side is weather stained. The white washed building in the village centre at the telephone kiosk with the pink corrugated roof is charming.

Landscaping:

The stand of mature trees on the Killeshandra Road features a wonderful canopy which makes for an attractive entrance to Ardlougher. Mature trees and a woodland area on a minor unidentified road together with its elevated position offering a view of the countryside is an attractive aspect of Ardlougher. The corners at the crossroads near the telephone kiosk could be landscaped and bench type seating provided. Ensure that plants chosen are native to the area and avoid ornamental species, plant for seasonal interest also.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

A nature trail might be developed on the breen up from the crossroads which features a woodland area, the flora and fauna of the area could be identified and information published on an interpretative panel. Ardlougher is located within a lakeland area and amenities within walking distance should be published. A

wildlife survey would be useful not only to promote awareness of wildlife but also to protect wildlife habitats in the event of future development.

Litter Control:

Litter control was excellent in Ardlougher with there being no evident litter on the day of adjudication. In future years submit details of your litter management activities such as participation in the National Spring Clean, the frequency of litter picking activities and the segregation of litter for recycling as these can attract additional marks under this heading.

Waste Minimisation:

Only a nominal mark has been awarded this year for waste minimisation as no recycling facilities have been noted. Some consideration might be given to the organizing of a community waste audit and a community composting initiative as a means of reducing the amount of waste generated by the Ardlougher community.

Tidiness:

Try to eliminate weed growth from road edges, the base of walls, gates and other areas as these look unsightly. A number of derelict premises were noted out the Belturbet Road, encourage property owners to maintain these in a tidy manner until redevelopment.

Residential Areas:

The dwelling with the porch canopy near the crossroads painted white with black window reveals is an attractive feature of the village centre. The gardens of two bungalows on the Killeshandra entrance were admired. Five sites with planning permission for presumably residential development were noted on one entrance to the village. three dwellings on the top of the Belturbet road need to improve the roadside areas to their boundary walls and the same applies to the Swanlinbar road. The handsome specimen trees in the garden of a house on the Belturbet road have a stately appearance and the white boundary wall here was admired.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

the overhead service cables in the village centre are visually poor and the service pole looks bad also; try to have these ducted and the pole replaced by an attractive lampstandard. the surrounds of the telephone kiosk needs to be landscaped, a seat could also be provided. Some road signs need cleaning. Grass verges on approach roads look reasonably well, the stone bridge is a charming feature and should be revealed as a feature of the village.

General Impression:

Ardlougher is an attractive tiny settlement which is poised to grow; try to retain the rural charm of the village whilst at the same time assimilating growth.