

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ardfield** Ref: **102**
County: **Cork (West)** Mark: **245**
Category: **A** Date(s): **20/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	38
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	18
Litter Control	50	40
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	245

Overall Development Approach:

The information contained in your application from was clear, concise and relevant and the selection of maps provided was most helpful. Ardfield Tidy Towns still maintains a large committee of fifteen, which is amazing considering the size of the village. Sustained links with the County Council are commended and your fund raising efforts have been noted. The adjudicator gladly recognises that the Tidy Towns Competition plays a part in spurring the residents to sustain the high standard that Ardfield enjoys. The distribution of circulars and newsletters is an excellent way of contacting all residents.

The Built Environment:

Ardfield is spread out over a series of by-roads and is well presented throughout. The Church looked well on the day of adjudication and the restoration work on the building to its rear no doubt will greatly enhance the built environment of Ardfield on its completion. The National School also looked well, as did O'Mahony's. The restored pump was noted however, the old style post box looked grubby and poses a good opportunity for improvement.

Landscaping:

The 'welcome' stone on the Clonakilty is a wonderful introduction to the village. The water feature further on was in full flow on this wet summers afternoon. The Church grounds were neat and the interesting purple wheel and mural were admired adjacent to the graveyard. Four rambling rose flowerbeds were in full bloom at this location too.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The colourful illustration of the 'Birds of Ardfield' was noted and we look forward to the new hedging being provided around the tennis courts.

Litter Control:

There was minimal litter in Ardfield probably because a gentleman was on litter picking duty in the small park area below the tennis courts as the village was being adjudicated!!

Waste Minimisation:

The school is obviously playing its part in recycling waste but what about the residents and local businesses? Perhaps your committee could consider composting next year in order to attain additional marks in this section.

Tidiness:

The angling signage in the village had quite an amount of mossy type growth and this needs cleaning. As mentioned in last years report a number of neglected outbuildings on private property detract from the village and indeed the trojan work that is being carried out by the Tidy Towns Committee!

Residential Areas:

The restoration work being completed at Ardfield House was greatly admired and the landscaping will, hopefully, be completed by the 2008 Tidy Towns Competition. For the most part private residences in Ardfield are well presented with regard to paintwork and landscaping and a distinct pride in the locality is evident – and rightly so! Forge House on the Clonakilty Road was greatly admired and Trá Cottage looked quite well too. Perhaps the impressive new residences at An t-Ard will be painted by next year to further enhance their appearance. However, the house close to O'Mahony's with interesting architectural features is prominently located at a junction and gives a shabby appearance. Similarly, a vacant house close to the school has a similar effect.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The many roads of Ardfield were neatly presented on the day. However, some roadside weeds were identified to the front of Trá Cottage.

General Impression:

Ardfield certainly is an area on the up! There are many amenities for a village of its size and overall this couples with well cared for residences and commercial premises make it a very pleasant place to visit. Keep up the good work!