

# Tidy Towns Competition 2007

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Ardfert** Ref: **677**  
County: **Kerry** Mark: **231**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **24/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	32
The Built Environment	50	31
Landscaping	50	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	3
Tidiness	30	20
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>231</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Ardfert is welcome to the 2007 National Tidy Towns competition. Arfert is a town surrounded by beautiful countryside and home to several historic buildings. Renovations of Ardfert Cathedral were still in progress at the time of adjudication. It is noted the work you have done to work with other members of the community and government to achieve your long term goals.

### **The Built Environment:**

Shop fronts Bamboo, Kate Browns Pub, Brandonwell and The Tower are all very well presented. It is also good to see Spar and Carry Out housed in buildings reflective of the other older traditional buildings in the area. They are also very well presented. The Arfert Plant & Tool Centre has been painted to match the building next door which assists in making it less prominent. St Brendans Community Hall and the church were all very well kept. The school was well presented and it is good to see grass play areas available to children. The restoration of the Cathedral is an extensive project and it is so far looking amazing. The visitors centre is very well done and presented.

### **Landscaping:**

The plantings around the phone box looked very good, however there was quite a bit of broken glass on the stone area and the phone box had been heavily vadalised. It is noted that you are planning to resurface this area as a future project which would assist with the appearance. The stone work on the park walls and the garden looks in keeping with the traditional surrounds and is very well maintained. Well done on this feature. The fountain in the centre of town is a very interesting feature and it would be great to make this more prominent and perhaps look at restoring it to a functioning fountain again. The entrance road into the Friary is very well done and maintained.

**Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

It is noted your work to establish ownership of the cathedral graveyard to enable a maintenance programme. The continuation of clearing along the Tyse river site is commendable and has built on last years achievements.

**Litter Control:**

Ardfert was virtually litter free on the day of adjudication so well done. It is noted that you have scheduled monthly litter clean ups and this has have a very positive effect on the towns appearance.

**Waste Minimisation:**

The Bring Bank was very well kept and the surrounding area tidy. It is a well used part of the town so easily visible and accessible to everyone which encourages more recycling. It is noted that you have applied to KCC to adopt the recycling point. The establishment of programs within the community to educate and encourage recycling would assist in increasing recycling. It may also be worthwhile working with retailers such as Texaco for them to encourage people to recycle drink bottles etc after purchasing them in their store. Ensuring other retailers and the school are also adopting recycling regimes would also be very beneficial in reducing waste.

**Tidiness:**

The grass at the graveyard at the church was a bit overgrown and there was also prominent weeds. A The memorial to the people killed by the Black & Tans opposite the graveyard has weeds surrounding it. A fantastic job has been done on irradiating weeds in the footpaths in town as there was none to be seen on the day of adjudication. The sign for the Arfert Friary needs to be replaced as it is badly scratched.

**Residential Areas:**

The boundary walls are looking very well and the estates of Walnut Grove and Casement View are well maintained. It is noted that there is new development underway and it is presumed that these areas will be landscaped on completion.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The direction signs in the centre of town were not all visible. It was not possible to see the sign for Abbeydorney from either side. One side it was covered by another permanent sign. However, on the other side a temporary ReMax real estate sign had been placed. This should not be allowed and should be removed. It is noted that you are awaiting new road signs for the entry. The street lamps are attractive and well maintained. The footpath on the Tralee road is also well kept. Some pavement areas in the main street are cracked and need repair. Revealing of stone walls in the town would look well.

**General Impression:**

Ardfert is a town with many historical features which it is good to see being restored. However, unless vistitors have prior knowledge or explore the town, many of these historical features are not prominent. A centre sign in an area that tourists pass would help inform them of the many treasures Arfert holds. The cathedral restoration is a wonderful project that will add to the towns appearance and historic knowledge. For residence of Ardfert, the restoration of the historic monuments will assist in keeping history alive in the town for future generations.