

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ardfinnan** Ref: **296**
County: **Tipperary (South)** Mark: **249**
Category: **B** Date(s): **25/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	38
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	28
Litter Control	50	31
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	249

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to the 2007 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission and indeed the photographs and support material were very helpful to the adjudicator. Your committee's proposed consultation regarding the County Development Plan is to be commended. It is to be hoped that the local knowledge, which your committee will make available, will be taken into consideration in any future developments.

Ardfinnan has a picturesque setting on the banks of the Siur and the river is spanned here by a unique 15 arch bridge. The remains of the Anglo-Norman castle has a striking location close by the bridge. There are a series of magnificent vistas which open up from elevated sites in the surrounding countryside. One of these views is particularly striking from Factory Hill, which illustrates so well its setting and context. The committee continue to work on local projects particularly in relation to wildlife. They have again been successful in involving the local schools.

The Built Environment:

The church and school are strategically located in the village centre and are again beautifully maintained and create an immediate atmosphere of cleanliness and tidiness. The end walls to the bridge, which are presently defined with post and rail fencing, could be hugely improved if constructed in stone. Pub fronts and shop fronts in the town core were generally well presented. However, there still remains a proliferation of unattractive signs, which have been mentioned in previous reports, and the removal of some of these would make a difference.

Landscaping:

Your work in relation to Pleasant Way continued this year. The construction of the bridge in this area was noted. The further development of this area will be a fine asset to the wildlife trail. Its location adjacent to the school grounds and the work of the school children is a marvellous asset to have. Pleasant Way is being considered for the Landscape Award.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Happy Habitat Project continues to be a success. Again geese and other species were noted at the bridge this year. This habitat is close by the tennis courts and goalposts and this area is in need of some attention. The Happy Habitat Project is being considered for a Waterside Award. The increase in number of bird boxes was noted.

Litter Control:

Litter control was excellent on the day of adjudication. In the Car Parking bays opposite the Church, there was one small area containing a small amount of litter, also in St. Finnan's Estate adjacent to the litter bin. Other than that, the village was litter free on the day.

Waste Minimisation:

It is noted that the Ardfinnan National School Project to achieve a Green flag is underway. The can recycling project was further developed and it is to be hoped that further ideas from the Race Against Waste Booklet will be incorporated into your efforts in coming years. The 12 panel mural constructed around the school garden was an attractive presentation feature.

Tidiness:

The old Co-op complex in the village centre remains to be developed. This is a key location and some elements of remaining buildings have a nice rural scale. It is to be hoped that this scale will be retained when development takes place. The recycling centre located by the bridge was neat and tidy on the day but receptacles looked a little tired and need refreshing.

Residential Areas:

Residential properties are presented to a high standard in general, and it is noted that there are a number of new housing estates presently being developed. Gleann na Siuire Estate was somewhat unkempt and in need of grass cutting. The estate itself is well laid out but in need of substantial planting with native species of trees and shrubs around its large open space. St. Finnan's Avenue has a magnificent green which was well presented on the day and looked well. However the perimeter post and rail fencing was in need of some attention. The construction on the adjoining private estates was noted. Castleview Estate has a magnificent cluster of deciduous trees in its central open space. The greens were well-manicured and weed-free. Hedge-cutting along the approach road also in evidence.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads are generally good and some are excellent. The Clogheen entrance is most attractive. The boundary screening to the Moy Ilover factory is particularly attractive, consisting of a long linear hedge on the boundary with the cultivated Trees-on-Stilts outside. This is a very fine screening effort for such a large complex. The Clonmel approach road continues to maintain its very high presentation standards (new stone wall noted). The infill single-storey housing opposite the Pure Drop Pub are very sympathetic in design and scale in their location. There is a dramatic vista of the Castle as viewed from Hackett's shop, but this is somewhat spoiled by the unsightly wirescape in this location.

General Impression:

Ardfinnan, which has a beautiful natural setting, continues to develop and expand in a controlled and attractive manner, and looks set to continue in this manner in the years to come.