

# Tidy Towns Competition 2007

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Ardclough** Ref: **353**  
County: **Kildare** Mark: **219**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **15/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>219</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Ardclough is welcome to the National Tidy Towns Competition as a new entrant. The village is nestled away in beautiful countryside but close to the canal which gives Ardclough substantial potential for amenity development. For such a small village the number of committee members is quite substantial at 16. It is good to note that you work in cooperation with Kildare County Council, KELT and An Taisce and that you promote the Green Flag programme in the local school. Your use of church announcements and a newsletter to communicate Tidy Towns initiative is good. You might also find leaflet drops effective. You make reference to Heritage Week; forward details of this in next year's competition as it can be a source of additional marks. It is important that you have a planned work programme to guide your effort over the next three years. Do provide one with next year's submission together with a map.

### **The Built Environment:**

The new GAA Centre is a fine development and has been considered for the architectural award. The church and its grounds are most impressive in presentation and the shop is neatly presented also. The entrance to the playing fields The looks well. Perhaps a name plate or a sign could be provided for the shop. We note from your submission that a new school has been approved for Ardclough and anticipate further enhancement of your built environment upon completion. The important thing to remember under this heading is that in addition to buildings themselves being maintained their curtilage areas, i.e. green areas, driveways, car parking areas, boundary walls and areas immediately outside of boundary walls should be maintained to the highest standard also.

### **Landscaping:**

The village green looked remarkably well at the time of adjudication with its neatly maintained green area and

trees and shrubs of varying species and degree of maturity. Stands of silver birch trees must look well in the winter also when bare of leaves. Do try to maintain grass verges within the limits determined by name plates neatly trimmed during the growing season with straightened roadside edges. In future planting programme choose species that are native as these will be supportive of wildlife and plant for seasonal interest also. Well done on work accomplished for the canal walk. We look forward to the erection of a local guide map/interpretative panel.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

Your intention to monitor pollution on the canal which may affect swans is commendable and we would like details of your activities in this respect. The canal walk is a fine amenity feature. Perhaps a survey of the flora and fauna of the canal and indeed of the village in general might be undertaken and a wildlife board erected with details of species. As noted above the Daniel Graham Memorial Park has been considered for the architectural award.

### **Litter Control:**

Ardclough was litter free on adjudication day, well done; no doubt this has been achieved by your organised litter picking activities. It is good to note the replacement of vandalised bins and the provision of community bins. You might also undertake a litter survey to determine the source of the litter so that the problem can be tackled at its root cause. Your participation in the An Taisce National Spring Clean has been noted.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

We wish you well in your efforts to have recycling bins located in the neighbourhood and note that you do segregate litter for recycling. The overall goal under this heading is to reduce the amount of waste produced by the community, with this in mind you might consider undertaking a survey of the amount and type of waste produced and be creative in developing strategies to reduce this.

### **Tidiness:**

Do try to keep kerbs and the base of walls free from weed growth as they detract from an otherwise good overall appearance and suggest neglect. The wirescape at the school is visually obtrusive and could be ducted; keep this in mind with the future development in this area. Pay particular attention to entrances and side areas. We note that you plan to approach property owners regarding the clearing of ditches and the removal of fallen trees as well as the repair of broken fences and wish you well in this regard.

### **Residential Areas:**

Private gardens are attractive as are dwellings themselves. Housing developments are nicely presented overall and the line of grass verge to the roadside area of boundary walls built over the culverted stream is a nice touch along this road. No doubt you know the importance of encouraging residents to take responsibility not only for their own property and boundary walls but for their estates as well. Well done on your representations to householders regarding broken signs and weed control. Any further housing developments around the village will hopefully be finished to the high standard that already exists in Ardclough and new residents encouraged to participate in the Tidy Towns effort.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Private gardens are attractive as are dwellings themselves. Housing developments are nicely presented overall and the line of grass verge to the roadside area of boundary walls built over the culverted stream is a nice touch along this road. No doubt you know the importance of encouraging residents to take responsibility not only for their own property and boundary walls but for their estates as well. Well done on your representations to householders regarding broken signs and weed control. Any further housing developments around the village will hopefully be finished to the high standard that already exists in Ardclough and new residents encouraged to participate in the Tidy Towns effort.

A stretch of road surface at the canal bridge is in poor condition; hopefully this will be redressed in the not too distant future. It was good to note the wirescape free aspect of the village centre and hopefully this will be extended to the environs of the school in due course. Name plates looked well being clean and legible. Most stretches of road verge are being neatly maintained. A good overall presentation under this heading.

### **General Impression:**

Ardclough is a beautiful village enjoying the benefits of a rural location alongside the amenities of the canal. Your strategy over the next few years should be to undertake a survey of flora and fauna of the canal and elsewhere and also a waste survey. As the village is quite small with only one business premises, a church

and a school, there isn't that much scope to perform well under the built environment.