

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ardaghey** Ref: **529**
County: **Monaghan** Mark: **243**
Category: **A** Date(s): **06/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	39
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	38
Waste Minimisation	20	9
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	243

Overall Development Approach:

Ardaghey Development Association are congratulated on their progress in the village since 1998 and you are congratulated on your ongoing success in the Competition as a result of the work of your sub-committee. Your detailed submission and very clear map were of great use to the adjudicator on her rounds. In addition to this, the School Principal is complimented for her Environmental Plan. It is wonderful to note that you co-operate with the school when possible and that you have a good working relationship with various departments of Monaghan County Council. It is refreshing to note that the participation in the Tidy Towns Competition has acted as a catalyst for pride in Ardaghey and indeed there is much to be proud of.

The Built Environment:

The Forge is a lovely feature to have in a village of Ardaghey's size and is strategically located at the crossroad and thereby visible to all passing traffic. Rackwallace National School is commended for its fresh appearance and vibrant window boxes. The gates however are beginning to rust and should be painted before next years competition. The Community Centre was crisp in appearance and the church and grounds too looked well. The new cobblelocked path was noted through the rain! The ornate street lighting certainly adds character to the village.

Landscaping:

The shrubbery on the Lisleitrim road was noted and admired as was the new fence. The wildflowers were in full bloom and were the most impressive this adjudicator has seen this year. Planting at the village nameplates added a welcome splash of colour. Other incidental hanging baskets and planters were noted. A bed of marigolds was admired at the Community Centre.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The wildflower bank and Wildlife garden are marvellous and it just goes to show how even a small area can be transformed into a sanctuary. Well done. Having read the 'Ardaghey Goes Wild' article it is encouraging to note that the TidyTowns Competition directly influenced this the creation of this project. Of course it is the school children that are the experts in with regard to wildlife and green initiatives and they must be of great assistance to your committee throughout the year. You are very lucky to have such willing helpers!

Litter Control:

Litter control was very good on the day of adjudication with only odd small stray pieces noted.

Waste Minimisation:

The schools progress in the Green Flag Programme will be eagerly awaited in next years competition. You are commended for the segregation and recycling waste from village litter picks.

Tidiness:

There is very little to criticise in Ardaghey with regard to tidiness. Verges are well maintained and public and private properties are presented to a very high standard. However, weed growth was evident at the base of the fence opposite the wildflower bank and the road surface here was a little rough. Some agricultural yards visible to the passer-by are a little untidy and that is a pity. Staining on boundary walls should be repainted as this gives an unnecessarily untidy appearance in places.

Residential Areas:

Most of the private properties in Ardaghey are immaculate in their presentation including the cottage at the corner, Chapel View and a landscaped garden with gnomes on the road to the school. You are commended for your ongoing encouragement of new and existing property owners to take pride in the appearance of their houses and surrounding area. The completion of paving and removal of rubble hugely impacts on the appearance of any village when projects are completed.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

You are congratulated on your success in the Golden Mile Competition and it is clear that Ardaghey was truly a worthy winner. Approach roads are neatly presented throughout the village. Some uneven patches were noted but it is possible that this was resulting from recent works.

General Impression:

Ardaghey certainly is building significant momentum in this competition. You are commended on your continued increase in marks and no doubt, with your diligence, this will be a trend for many years to come.