

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ardattin** Ref: **31**
County: **Carlow** Mark: **277**
Category: **A** Date(s): **24/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	38
The Built Environment	50	38
Landscaping	50	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	27
Litter Control	50	37
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	38
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	277

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Ardattin to the 2009 Tidy Towns Competition and thank you for your completed entry form. You have a large committee and that is a great sign for the future in terms of potential progress. However, just four meetings per year does seem a little low even though you meet for clean-ups from time to time. It is great that you have FAS involved together with the County Council and other local support. The talks to the School are a great way of getting children engaged in environmental matters. The adjudicator did receive the undated additional information supplied after the entry form was received. A copy of your 3 Year Tidy Towns Plan was not included.

The Built Environment:

You seem to have undertaken an extensive programme of building painting and this was evident on adjudication day. The issue of the Ball Alley is understood by the adjudicator. If permission could be granted for painting of this structure for 2010 this would mark a significant contribution to the local Tidy Towns effort and would be much appreciated by the adjudicators. The car park is a great additional facility for Ardattin and work here has been carried out to a high standard. We look forward to seeing the future phases of this initial development in the years ahead. The attractive Granite Coach House was much admired. The seat here together with the colourful landscaping sets off the Coach House to advantage. Nearby, the Catholic Church has an interesting architectural detailing over the main entrance doorway. The plant containers at the doorway and by the roadside added welcoming additional colour. Across the road, the information panel is attractively framed by the two hanging baskets.

Landscaping:

The upgrading of all flower beds was a large undertaking completed successfully. In so many parts of the village an attractive, colourful and well maintained landscaping catches the eye. The new planted area at the

Church grounds also was admired. Along the roadside, at the new car park, the extensive planting on both sides of the road was colourful and welcoming.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The School display board continues to provide useful information for the children and will hopefully help to form their future views on the importance of wildlife in Ardattin. Your entry mentioned the maintaining of the wildlife area at the back of the car park but did not detail what you were actually doing in this area. Have you considered any other projects in which you might involve the School children?

Litter Control:

Congratulations on your participation in the Litter League and Pride of Place. The clean up days are a great way of getting the community involved in litter issues as is the idea of clean up weeks that you mentioned but again details were not provided. Litter control on the day of the visit was quite good.

Waste Minimisation:

The keeping of the recycling bins in a shed is rather unusual but it does overcome the problem of illegal dumping that you mentioned. What steps are you taking to reduce waste in Ardattin? What is left after that could go into recycling in as far as that is possible? Do remember that the Race Against Booklet, that all committees received a few years ago, has many useful suggestions for your consideration.

Tidiness:

In the entry form you referred to the new car park and footpaths but the reference was not clear. On the Ballintemple road the old pump would be improved if repainted, perhaps matt black. Opposite the car park, a corrugated iron roof would be improved if repainted. Ardattin once again this year was presented in a tidy fashion.

Residential Areas:

On the Clonegal / Ballon road, near a road junction, a black and white road boundary wall needed to be repainted. The renovation work on the old Post Office by the new owners is commended – well done! At Beechwood Drive the grass was in need of a cut and some weed growth was evident at kerbs. Some very good landscaping was examined at corners on the internal roadway. Generally, houses in Ardattin were well painted and this was quite often complimented by good landscaping.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The main approach roads are impressive and you have developed very good grassy green verge areas on most approach roads. Good tree planting compliments the verge presentation in many areas. Do remember that roadside banks cannot be cut between March and August under the terms of the Wildlife Act. Tree pruning in various areas has been noted. The changing of your signs to Irish is a really good project and it was nice to see that it was underway at the time of the visit.

General Impression:

This was the adjudicator's first visit to Ardattin and this is an attractive village where the Tidy Towns Committee, and the community have a strong dedication to the Tidy Towns ethos. The approach that is really welcomed. Good luck with your projects for 2010.