

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ardara** Ref: **161**
County: **Donegal** Mark: **221**
Category: **C** Date(s): **20/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	27
Landscaping	50	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	221

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your entry into this year's TidyTowns Competition 2009. Well done on your submission of a very full and complete entry form. Please remember that you may submit further pages if you wish. Thank you for your very helpful and accurate map. Special thanks for the very well put together newsletter. This is a very good indication of how you communicate with your community. Your committee is in good numbers and you meet regularly. You have a wealth of events! It is recommended that you work on your plan. It will help to garner extra points but more importantly, it will help you to succeed in your work.

The Built Environment:

The Wood School (a Green School!) is very pleasant. The Methodist and Church of Ireland churches looked very well. There are many lovely shopfronts (e.g. Young's, Nancy's) in the centre of the town. The choice of colours for houses and shops is very good, with lots of blues and greys. The modern and modernised buildings (e.g. the hostel) look good. The Nesbitt Arms Hotel looks very well. The RC Church looks great, especially the stained glass windows. The gateposts here need a little paint though. The large house adjacent the hostel needs to be cleaned.

Landscaping:

Well done on the Ardara in Bloom competition, an excellent initiative. The area at and around the new carpark scores top marks for its tourist information, flowers and riverside walk. The sculpture is simply beautiful. The hanging baskets on the bridge are lovely. The playground and crèche facility are very appealing.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

This is the weakest part of your entry. Your plan for nature reserves is an excellent one but few details were provided. The nature trail lauded by last year's adjudicator was not alluded to in your entry nor marked on the map. There is an opportunity to provide wildlife information at the river but there is none. The river is arguably the most important wildlife feature of the town.

Litter Control:

Well done on your anti-litter initiatives. Some litter was seen on day of visit. The anti-litter article in your newsletter was well written. Consider a poster campaign.

Waste Minimisation:

Your stated wish to hold composting workshops is a good idea. Both household and community composting projects are excellent ways of reducing waste and creating a useful by-product. Apart from this, no initiatives are described or were observed on day of visit. In future entries, please give details of how you might communicate with others to encourage use of recycling centres and keeping the town tidy. Also, it is recommended that your group focuses on the reduction and minimisation of waste. Your local authority environmental awareness officer will be able to advise you on this.

Tidiness:

Full marks again for your signage on the walking route. However, there was far too much signage at the top of the town (to the north). You can consider this clutter. The benches on the Diamond could be redone. There are also some weeds here. Broken pavements are frequent. Bilingual signage is uneven. The derelict premises do not detract too much on the whole, from the town. These should be managed as you have described. The litterbins need to be cleaned more regularly.

Residential Areas:

In the centre of town, a high standard of presentation of houses and garden was appreciated by the adjudicator. In terms of new developments, Aran Court was seen to have nice colours and was neat on day of visit.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads were trimmed and the signs visible. The Heritage Town sign and stonework is very good and lets you know that you are entering a place interest.

General Impression:

There is a generally good impression given by Ardara. The town centre is very pleasant and there are some lovely premises. The riverside area is wonderful. The heritage centre is very nice. Your proximity to the Gaeltacht should mean more signage as Gaeilge. The town is blessed with beautiful scenery and a wild rugged backdrop yet no information on wildlife, fisheries or the natural environment is supplied. Your entry material and the level of detail supplied therein leaves the adjudicator in no doubt that your group is serious about this competition and the quality of your town. Some shortfalls should therefore be addressed. You are wished every success with this.