

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ardpatrick** Ref: **441**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **283**
Category: **A** Date(s): **06/07/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	39
The Built Environment	50	38
Landscaping	50	41
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	27
Litter Control	50	40
Waste Minimisation	20	12
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	34
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	283

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome the beautiful village of Ardpatrick to the 2009 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your completed entry form and the supporting documentation. The photographs were also most helpful. The adjudicator liked the idea of the letter written to the adjudicator enclosed with your entry. This letter also provided much useful background information. 'The Village of Tradition' is a great theme for Ardpatrick and it is great to see that you are so conscious of the importance of preserving the true character of Ardpatrick. Your committee of eleven is quite large and that is encouraging for the future. Tidy Towns here enjoys significant local and agency support, together with that of Ballyhoura Development. It is noted that your new Tidy Towns Plan 2010 to 2012 is in preparation.

The Built Environment:

The Church, as the key building in Ardpatrick, is most beautifully presented and looks really well following the power washing. The presentation of the grounds greatly impressed this adjudicator. The semi mature trees here, with carefully chosen planting and excellent grass areas, all combine to give a picture of excellence. Well done to those involved in landscaping maintenance here and elsewhere in Ardpatrick. The varied texture provided by the Church planting was also admired here. The Community Centre with the recently repainted timber work was enhanced by the colourful wall baskets. The Sunville Inn is an interesting property with good architectural detailing. Repainting here will be necessary for next year if possible, especially the high gable walls. The freshly painted black and yellow pump stood out. The owner of O'Sullivan's Garage is congratulated for the great improvements made here in presentation terms, while at the Community Centre the information panel provided good local historical background. The Green Flag was proudly flying at the School and the window boxes, and generally neat presentation impressed.

Landscaping:

Landscaping at the Greenwood Inn was admired. The Carraig Mor project is indeed a large project which was unfinished on the day of the adjudication visit. We look forward to seeing the completed work here that is progressing so well. The new trees here and the weather vane have fitted in quite well to this site. Bishop Murphy Park is an unexpected pleasure. The fine, exceptionally well maintained landscaping and planting here was greatly admired by the adjudicator. Good plant choices have been made here and one of the great attractions is the colour and texture variety. Just across the road, the same standard continues at the area with the Ballyhoura Mountain panel. The wild flower stone wall to the side of the Community Centre is a delight. Very good kerb enclosed planting was examined opposite Carraig Mor at the road junction.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Dawn Chorus event on May 17th must have been a fantastic experience, and what a great idea! The adjudicator was really pleased to read that your various nesting boxes are being used by your local wildlife - what a great success! Have you looked at the Kildorrery Road river area in terms of wildlife projects?

Litter Control:

Litter control is one of your very strong performance areas. The Bring Centre was very neatly presented and the grey stone wall behind is a great improvement. There was no evidence of any sort of dumping on the day of the visit. The official signage, however, was missing. The Clothing Bank had been removed. Litter control in Ardpatrick was very good.

Waste Minimisation:

The use of the Newsletter to highlight what is happening at the School in terms of the Green Flag Programme is most useful. Congratulations to the School on their 3rd Green Flag and good luck as you work towards your 4th Green Flag. Have you looked at ways of reducing waste generated in Ardpatrick? This would be a very useful exercise for 2010. The School should be involved in this, perhaps as an extension of the Green Flag work that they are already undertaking.

Tidiness:

All signs were clean and easily read. In your entry, you mentioned your desire to have cables put underground. Are you in touch with ESB and Telecom on this? If not then it would be no harm to have an exploratory meeting with them and get your village on the list for possible future action by them.

Residential Areas:

The various private houses in Ardpatrick impressed the adjudicator in terms of overall presentation and landscaping. Well done on avoiding housing estate development during the last few years. Therefore, Ardpatrick is still a great village of character.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The main approach roads were well presented and created a great first impression of Ardpatrick. On the approach by the School, the fine stone walls were admired. Trees have done much to enhance the approach roads to Ardpatrick and you are so lucky in this respect. On the Ballyhea approach, the hedging needed to be cut back from the 60 / 80 KPH signage. The banks and verges on the small side road, that leads to the Church behind the garage, needed attention. Banks and verges needed to be cut along here.

General Impression:

It was a great pleasure to visit Ardpatrick and good luck with your projects for 2010.