

Tidy Towns Competition 2012

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ardfinnan** Ref: **296**
County: **Tipperary(South)** Mark: **270**
Category: **B** Date(s): **17/06/2012**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2011	Mark Awarded 2012
Overall Development Approach	50	40	40
The Built Environment	50	31	32
Landscaping	50	38	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	27	27
Litter Control	50	33	34
Tidiness	30	17	17
Waste Minimisation	20	10	10
Residential Areas	40	27	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	36	36
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	400	267	270

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to the National Tidy Towns Competition 2012. Your committee of ten adults and two school children are to be complimented on your efforts particularly this year because of the wet spring and summer. We note that you have good support from public bodies, GAA and local business people. Thank you for your maps, photos, three year plan, biodiversity plan and other reports attached with the entry form. It is quite clear that you are an active community dedicated to enhancing your town. It is good to note that your committee remains positive and committed.

The Built Environment:

The Pure Drop pub is well painted. Hackett's shop likewise. There are well painted houses, a Credit Union and Garda Station in Barrack Street. The old mill/warehouse gable needs plastering. The school and boundary wall were in good repair and painted. The flower containers were well maintained and the mural was admired. The church looks well and had a large plant container near the entrance. The signs in Main Street were clean and informative. The CLG building was clean and the stone entrance was a nice feature. We are delighted to note that you were able to follow our suggestion on having the old creamery building painted; it is also festooned with lots of hanging baskets and window boxes. Burkes, the Post office, the Riverside Restaurant and pubs were well presented. Regrettably the old Co-op building has rusty sheds and the growth of ivy is helping to keep it green. Good luck with your planning for the Visitor Centre. The service ducts were a thing of wonder for us until we read your report and learned what they are.

Landscaping:

A line of lime trees on the Clonmel Road approach is growing in competition with hawthorn trees. You should decide which species should remain. The severe pruning of the trees at Barrack Street is not recommended.

They should be allowed to develop a crown. The impact of the two crescent moon features would be more successful if hedging were used instead of wildflowers and the maintenance would be less. Aim to use shrubs rather than flowers as they are less costly and can make better long term impact. Hanging baskets on poles in this area are well done. A tree in the school grounds is causing a problem with the roots lifting the concrete base. It is suggested that the concrete be removed as it appears unnecessary. There is scope for a tree to be planted in the corner of the church grounds near this tree to add impact. Congratulations on your efforts at producing your own flowers and shrubs.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The riverside park looked idyllic with geese grazing by the River Suir. This is a valuable well used feature for Ardfinnan. There were seats in a pleasant setting with stone walls and plants. The timber bridge on the green looks better for having been treated. We compliment you for responding to our suggestion of 2011. We noted the various activities such as wildlife walks and volunteer surveys of riverbank damage. The biodiversity plan is useful as a guide to the range and diversity of habitats in your area. Your environment is surrounded by a wealth of flora and fauna. It is interesting especially for school children to survey the flora as a means of developing their interest and knowledge of their surroundings.

Litter Control:

Congratulations on your approach to litter management. The various activities and awareness programmes appear to be successful. In general, litter bins were clean and well maintained. Unfortunately some litter was evident at the riverside park.

Tidiness:

In general Ardfinnan appears to be a tidy community. However the task of maintaining tidiness is difficult for all communities. Some dumping of grass clippings were noted on the Clonmel Road. If the grass were cut more often it would not be necessary to collect it and thus avoid the disposal problem. Some weeds were present at the service station on the Clonmel Road which appears to be closed and at the kerb in Barrack Street. Weeds were also noted on gutters, chimneys, base of walls and at the timber fence (which needs painting). MPS site was unsightly and weedy. The River Suir sign needs cleaning and there was litter beside it. To the side of Blackwells the area was untidy. Pallets at Brett Bros could be stacked more neatly and tree planting at the front boundary would help to screen the yard activities. The signs at the Bring Banks needed cleaning and there was litter around them.

Waste Minimisation:

We are glad to see that the school and locals participated in the Spring Clean-Up and we hope that the sorting of waste is on-going. Have you determined the volume of material being recycled in your community? The green flag was seen flying at the school, congratulations.

Residential Areas:

Private gardens for the most part were well planted. Gleann na Súire estate looked very well. Ros na Greine is an unfinished road and estate. The area will benefit from trees. This area suffers from unfinished estates; Ashfield Manor being another one. On the other hand, Castle View has fine mature trees and hanging baskets. No litter in evidence. The older houses at Mount Carmel had good hanging basket displays. A nice stone wall features opposite the playschool but an old shed reduces the impact. St Finian's estate had litter on the road beside the litter bin and at the shop. The open space looks well with good mature trees. The houses and the roundabout at St. Anne's Terrace are impressive and the Lupins made a great show.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

On the Clonmel Road the white town sign needs cleaning and weeding. Perhaps this was overlooked because of your attention to the sign and display on the opposite side of the road. Further on, deteriorating walls are in need of being rendered. The roundabout was well planted as were the nearby houses. At the junction of Barrack Street and the Cahir Road it is clean and well maintained. The finger post signs need cleaning at this area.

General Impression:

Congratulations on your efforts to date in the improvement of Ardfinnan. You have a natural beauty with the river and riverside park. You are making good progress, keep up the good work and we look forward to your entry in 2013.

