

Tidy Towns Competition 2014

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ardagh** Ref: **474**
County: **Longford** Mark: **296**
Category: **A** Date(s): **19/06/2014**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014
Community Involvement & Planning	60	43
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	44
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	42
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	28
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	14
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	54
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	39
TOTAL MARK	450	296

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Your adjudicator welcomes Ardagh to the Tidy Towns competition for 2014. Thank you for your entry map and selection of photos. Following on from last years adjudicator do press ahead and put together a three year plan that will drive you right back to the top. You have an active committee that works closely with local agencies for support and assistance with your on-going maintenance and new projects as they arise. Your communication through local papers gets information to the wider community on your activities. The competition has given the community a sense of pride in their village and also helps to welcome new residents to the village. Ardagh had a very busy time but a very fruitful one over the last 12 months. In December 13 saw the launch of Luke Baxter publication "Our roots in stone". You are to be congratulated on this publication and the positive impact this will have on the area. In March 14 was another important occasion for the community of Ardagh when President Michael D Higgins was a guest at Ardagh Heritage and creativity centre. This was a special occasion for the community. The president later planted a willow tree at the site which will grow and remind the community of this special visitor.

Built Environment and Streetscape / An Timpeallacht Thógtha agus Sráid-dreacha:

The G.A.A. grounds were the first place encountered on the adjudicators visit to Ardagh. This is a superb amenity for the community which includes a walking track. The heritage centre was buzzing with activity which is positive. St Brigids Church and grounds are superbly presented. Ardagh cemetery was visited and this was also well presented. The planted hedge between the church grounds and cemetery was admired. The parochial house also looked well. The village pump a focal point in the village could be enhanced with some planting perhaps. The clock tower is a jewel in the crown of the lovely heritage buildings of the village. The railings need painting however it looks as if someone has started. The green area in the centre is very well maintained but the gravel paths need resurfacing and weeding. The Church of Ireland is a very imposing building. Work is on going on the boundary walls of the cemetery. The gate into the St Mel's needs painting. The beautiful heritage stone houses, one of which is the community centre was admired.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The village is set in a superb background of tress and stone walls that form the boundary. The green area in the village had nice hanging baskets and landscaped beds. The village pump is a nice focal point but needed a lift of colour. The approach roads had some superb landscaping. In particular the corner opposite the gate lodge had colourful planting. One wonders if hanging baskets are part of this landscaped area. There are many containers along the walk from the heritage centre some planted some not. There presence is not having any impact on the village landscaping. The stone wall has its own beauty. The tubs outside the Church gate also need attention. The landscaping at the back of the heritage centre has some lovely colour in the trees and shrubs that are part of the

garden here. The grounds of the Church have some nice hedging and colourful year round planting that is recommended.

Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fiadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádurtha:

There are many areas in the village that are natural habitats for wildlife. Working along with the school you could accumulate a comprehensive overview of the habitats and species that can be found in the area. The three key areas that should be addressed are Education, Conservation and Celebration. Education is the knowledge of local species and habitats. Conservation is maintaining habitats. In celebrating your local wildlife groups are encouraged to host events that celebrate and raise awareness of local species and habitats. This could be a dawn chorus or a bat walk with an expert. Assistance for these can be obtained from the local authority. This could be held as part of heritage week.

Sustainable Waste and Resource Management / Bainistiú Acmhainní agus Dramhaíola Inbhuanaithe:

This category is about waste prevention by reducing the amount of waste produced in the community in the first place. Composting is one area that you are currently doing. Recycling is on going. Savings in water can be reached through harvesting of rainwater. This can also be used across the wider community with water charges being introduced. All groups are encouraged to address this. Food is one area that waste can be prevented. There are work shops being run on this and your group should attend these workshops. Try and focus on one project in this area for next year.

The local authorities prevention network website have added a specific Tidy Towns page to this website providing practical tips and advice on sustainable waste and resource management. The website address is <http://localprevention.ie/tidy-towns/>. This hopefully will be of benefit to groups.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The village was generally tidy on day of adjudication with some areas needing attention. Boundary wall beside Ardagh St Mels needs attention and the entrance gate into St Mels needs painting. The signs look grubby and could do with cleaning. Litter control was generally good on day of adjudication. Do you have a litter plan in place or are the school involved. You have a large area to patrol so having all members on board helps.

Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:

The village residences that have their own uniqueness and the more modern build of the stand alone houses on the approach roads all add their own character to the village streetscape. There are many colourful gardens and mature trees that complete this picture postcard village. Well done to all the residents for there work in this category.

Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:

The approach roads had some lovely areas of landscaping. The superb stone walls that are part of the village centre extend out the approach roads. This adjudicator felt that the ivy and briars need to be trimmed back and not let get a hold on these lovely walls. All field gates should be painted in a uniform colour. The Longford directional sign is rusty and needs attention.