

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ardfert**

Ref: **677**

County: **Kerry**

Mark: **270**

Category: **B**

Date(s): **13/06/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	36
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	38
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	34
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	27
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	10
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	59
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	33
TOTAL MARK	450	270

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Ardfert is most welcome to the SuperValu National Tidy Towns Competition 2017; thank you for your continued participation and the last nine years of your involvement, it is a pleasure to note your progress to date. To optimise Ardfert's performance in the competition it is necessary that you meet the requirements for submission which are (1) a multi-annual Tidy Towns Plan and (2) a colour coded map showing the location of projects achieved for the current year linked numerically to details in the entry form. Without both of these it is difficult to make significant progress. For more information consult your Tidy Towns Handbook and website. It is reassuring that you appreciate an objective assessment of your village each year and that participation generates community pride in Ardfert. Established links with the school is a wise investment in the future community development.

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

The overall appearance of the Built Environment in Ardfert is good. Premises that are nicely presented include Maguires and Company, McElligott's, and the Abbey Tavern Bar premises. The Catholic Church and burial grounds together with its car park and the Pastoral Centre all enjoy a good presentation with nicely landscaped open space and maturing trees however the entrance doors to the church building could be refurbished; the stained-glass windows are magnificent. Stone is the predominant building material used within the village and the Community Centre of half stone and half plaster looks very well. The HSE premises could be refurbished including its roadside boundary wall and the barn shaped building located across from the Glandore Gate could be refurbished to its roadside facade and feature colourful container plants. Projects accomplished for this year are noteworthy; the Roger Casement sculpture is a fine and fitting feature; the Heritage signage nicely presented and helpful; flags and flagpoles which add a festive ambience and more.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Landscaping at the Glandore Gate is impressive; container flower displays is suggested for the traffic islands across from the Glandore Gate. No new projects for this year's competition are detailed in your entry form however from the appearance of older landscaped areas, mature trees and the Fair Green it seems that time has been well spent on maintenance of existing planted areas. When formulating your Tidy Towns plan for Ardfert be sure to include a landscape plan also detailing sites ideal for planting and importantly, listing the plant species you propose to feature with an emphasis on native species to encourage bio-diversity. Landscaping at the Atlantic Oil premises is beautiful and a credit to them.

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

Ardfert's playground continues to enjoy excellent maintenance in its magnificent setting on the Fair Green. Well done on the installation of the bird boxes, keep us up-dated on their visitors, perhaps the school children can help out with this project. Birdwatch Ireland are very helpful also and can help you to get started. The sports grounds look well especially to their roadside boundary wall.

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

The care and maintenance of Ardfert's bottle bank listed in your entry form for this year is laudable; this category of the competition however goes beyond recycling, it is about prevention of waste at source and the efficient management of valuable resources such as water and energy. Log onto localprevention.ie/tidytowns to see what other communities are doing in this category and to get some inspiration for projects of your own. Perhaps a good start would be the installation of water butts to harvest rainwater for use in watering your flowers and landscaped areas in general; you could start with one and if it goes well add more.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Litter control is excellent again this year thanks to the people of the Rural Social Scheme and Tidy Towns committee members. The only evidence of litter and untidiness was cigarette ends outside pubs and sporadic outbreaks of weed growth here and there. Try to keep the 1916 Memorial and its surrounds weed free and well swept on a regular basis. Hopefully the litter collected is segregated for recycling; it can also be investigated to try to determine its source, type, location and frequency so that representations can be made to those causing the litter and can hopefully be prevented at source.

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

The entrance to Hazel Grove residential development is nicely landscaped and features an attractive name stone. Radharc an hEaglais is another lovely well landscaped estate. We note that estates have their own committees and manage their own areas however the Tidy Towns committee should work with the estate committees as a team to be perhaps a stronger group achieving more. Residents should be encouraged to maintain their roadside boundary walls to as high a standard as their dwellings and to take responsibility for roadside areas to their boundary walls also.

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

Don't give up on your request to have a pedestrian crossing in Ardfert if one is needed! Badly surfaced stretches of road, footpaths and curtilage areas unfortunately appear to be the norm in the village, presumably the council's roads engineer has been contacted on this matter? Some quite nice street furniture was noted at a variety of locations. Approach roads and entrances to Ardfert look quite good.

Concluding Remarks:

Ardfert is a gem of a village with its magnificent and invaluable heritage; a lot more could be achieved for the village however with the right type of projects undertaken by the Tidy Towns committee with the support of the community. the committee might consider taking a trip to Timoleague to see what they are doing in sharing their heritage.