

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Adare**

Ref: **464**

County: **Limerick**

Mark: **261**

Category: **C**

Date: **02/08/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	44	44
The Built Environment	40	34	32
Landscaping	40	36	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	28	28
Litter Control	40	32	33
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	26	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	36	35
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	261	260

Overall Developmental Approach:

Adare is welcome to the 2004 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your completed application together with excellent sketch map and additional information. Adare is located on a National Primary Route and suffers all the problems associated with through traffic yet the community has overcome this problem to become one of the highest ranking centres in the country; this is an excellent achievement. The location of the village on the river Maigue offers opportunities for amenity development which are being exploited. Congratulations!

The Built Environment:

The standard of presentation under this heading continues to impress and improvements have been noted since last year including new developments. Well done to "Adare Ironworks" who have refurbished their sign. "Hughies Fruit & Veg" together with the "Wilmot" premises are in need of some improvements. One section of wall at the "Black Abbey Co-Op" still needs attention. The new "Bill Chawlk" premises was admired together with many others.

Landscaping:

Landscaping both on approach roads and in the village centre together with that accomplished for the riverbank continues to impress both in terms of maintenance of existing landscaped areas and

newly planted areas. The park is a fine achievement and the reinstatement of the gazebo here has to be admired. The beds of red roses on the entrance from the Limerick road are eye catching.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Congratulations on amenity development on the riverbank at the castle and indeed on work to the castle development. Do keep us informed of your specific works under wildlife in order to retain the high mark you have achieved here.

Litter Control:

Litter control was excellent throughout the village. Some Fast Food litter however was noted at a seat in the carpark of the Heritage Centre which looked quite bad, however given the standard throughout the rest of the village, it is assumed that this was an isolated and temporary incident. We would like to have more information as to your overall litter management strategy and your daily management activities.

Tidiness:

The recycling point was well sited however during adjudication bags of clothing and loose clothing was dumped alongside. This is totally unacceptable and this situation should not be allowed to continue otherwise you will see a rapid substantial loss of marks under this heading. Weedy kerbs to the site of the old creamery together with some at the speed limit sign on the Kildimo road were noted. There were no other serious problems of untidiness throughout the village or on approach roads. Well done!

Residential Areas:

Desmond Drive continues to impress in terms of its presentation and lovely rose gardens at its terminus. Dwellings along the Kildimo road are particularly impressive in the presentation of their gardens. The new "Fishermans Wharf" apartment looks well and is settling into its environment. The green area at the entrance to Deer Park is simple yet tastefully presented. As usual the thatched cottages were admired.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

There are far too many signs on the verge on the left hand side on entering the village from the southern approach road. Road surfaces, footpaths and walls throughout Adare and its approaches are all very well presented as are roadside verges. Street furniture at the Heritage Centre carpark and elsewhere around the village were well presented.

General Impression:

A visit to Adare never fails to disappoint, it is always a rewarding experience. Congratulations on the reinstatement of the gazebo.

Second Round Adjudication:

Well known for the very high standards pertaining in and around the town - Adare continues to look well. The streetscape, tree lined approaches with well-tended grass verges, residential areas, trees, Town Park and surrounds all form a pattern of giving a very pleasant picture. The enclosed garden within the cloisters at the Augustinian Friary needs urgent attention – this being an area of high focus within the site. The river walk is a wonderful facility – a sign would be helpful to indicate the entry point for this river walk. The opportunity to walk by the river on grass or on well-surfaced path is welcome. On the early part of the walk the views of the river are lovely but with the growth of the

Willows beyond, the river sights are less frequent and clearing of viewing gaps would be welcome to enjoy the river. When the Desmond Castle is restored there will be a wonderful viewing point from the riverside walk with the stone bridge in the foreground. The Village Hall occupies a very prominent place in the town – less signage at this building would be helpful also a large heap of refuse in the area behind the building is inconsistent with standards in the town. The carpark behind the Tourist Office is well screened and planted – some litter was noted through the carpark and the accumulation of heaps of clothing at the bins were still present as mentioned above. The AIB garden is a delight as is the Library garden. The containers on the street side at the Kildimo roundabout are having a negative impact – the shrubs are half dead and the planting is tired – there has been an emphasis on using permanent plants and a swing away from seasonal plantings – a comparison of the containers at Vokes Hardware store with the dozen or so containers to either side of the road at the roundabout would clearly make a decision easy as to which is the best in this case.