

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Adare**

Ref: **276**

County: **Limerick**

Mark: **263**

Category: **C**

Date: **09/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	44	44
The Built Environment	40	35	34
Landscaping	40	36	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	28	28
Litter Control	40	33	32
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	26	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	36	36
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	263	261

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for the concise but comprehensive entry form and the attached detailed town map which was extremely helpful in identifying relevant places within the town and its environs.

Adare, despite the increased traffic flow, never disappoints in terms of overall presentation.

Preparations were in full swing for the upcoming Pro Am in the Adare Manor Golf Club and as a result all entrances to the town were in pristine condition.

The Committee deserve great credit for being able to get the most out of the local community on ongoing basis which keeps Adare to the forefront of the Tidy Towns Competition year upon year.

As stated in last years report the town has coped with the problems of increased traffic on a primary route to become a top ranking entry each year. This effort speaks volumes for the dedication and input of all sections of the greater community.

The Built Environment:

Every year the standard in this category seems to improve and this year was no exception.

Admittedly the evening of the adjudication was a "real" summers evening bright and fresh and this makes buildings and overall streetscapes look at their very best.

Nearly all premises civic, private and commercial were presented to very high standard.

There were on or two premises in main core area, that might look ok in any other centre but stood out like a sore thumb in Adare. It is not necessary to name these suffice to say that a coat of paint would make an extraordinary improvement and bring them in line with everyone else.

The following were the personal choices of this adjudicator for special mention.
Sean O Coileains Pub with its rare Plaster Sign, an art form in itself and credit to the tradesman who did this work- I bet he is in demand.
Both Llyods Deli and Restaurant and O Coileains Bar on the opposite side of the street were very appealing.
The Abbey Cleaners is a nicely kept compact premises with a simple sign
Both the Dunraven Arms, the Manor and Estate were in excellent condition.
Mention has to be made of the National School and the Churches of all denominations for the manner in which they were maintained.
Good to see Adare keeping up its hurling tradition with kids in full swing at the school field as one exits fro Killarney.
I noted many visitors were intrigued by the best field game in the world including one world famous rugby player who was in town for the pro am.
The Adare Ironworks on the Kildimo Road has improved beyond all recognition since this adjudicator last visited the town.
A number of excellent B&Bs were noted on the outskirts and I cannot leave this section without commenting on the private residences within the core area of the town, especially the manor cottage style houses with insignia 1936, These were immaculate.
The Health Centre simple but effective was an example to all similar centres around the country.

Landscaping:

The standard of general maintenance and landscaping in the Town Park was of a the highest quality . The local authority horticultural section personnel deserve special mention for the attention to detail as the park has matured so much in the last number of years.
The approach roads were very well presented with the tree lined entrance from the Killarney side especially attractive. Nice to see the Adare colours to the forefront, no doubt Tiger will be impressed when he visits on the first week in July.
I must complement the owners of the resplendent Pitch and Putt course for the manner in which the course generally and particularly the greens was presented.
Anytime I visit Adare I cannot be but impressed with lovely private gardens to be seen all over the town and on the outskirts.
Public places outside of the aforementioned Town Park were also well landscaped.
The young trees planted in residential areas such as Embury Close some years back have now matured beyond recognition and have been free from any form of vandalism.
One negative comment, the barrel like shrub and flower tubs in the centre of the the town need to cleaned and replanted in some cases.
Overall a very high standard of presentation and indeed imagination in planting.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Some years back a proposed wildlife initiative on the Banks of the Maigue was proposed and it is good to note that work has taken place in this natural wildlife haven.
It would have been worthwhile if a brief reference to this specific work was mentioned in the actual entry form in order that adjudicator could measure progress from years past.

Litter Control:

The litter control was excellent in both the village and in the outskirts.
Quite a lot of preparatory work was taking place in advance of the major golf pro am in the Adare Manor Golf Club. No doubt this contributed to the to the high standard of litter control.
It was noticeable that a number of new bins were placed strategically around the town, to cater for the larger volume of visitors that come Adare all the year round.

Tidiness:

In general the standard was very good and any sort of untidiness is quite obvious.

Signs were presented to a very high standard, all clean and visible.

Some kerbs and wall bases had too much weed growth visible, at a time of year when the weather is conducive to weed growth it can be hard to control.

A few unsightly sites, notably the unoccupied garden centre, house and farm yard on the Black Abbey Road, were noticed and need to be tackled by asking the owners to tidy up their properties.

Residential Areas:

The standard achieved in this category was very high with both new development and older residential areas presented in an excellent manner.

The older Avenue and the newer Limetree Avenue were in pristine condition, green areas well maintained in the case of Limetree and nice cottage gardens in the case of the older Avenue.

Established areas such as Desmond Drive, Park Avenue, Blackabbey Cottages and Abbeyview on the Kildimo Road were in meticulous condition.

All in all it was an excellent performance.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

All the approach roads, side and inner relief roads were presented to a very high standard but some wall bases had weed growth that need to be cleaned on a regular basis.

The condition of both name and directional signs was very good being visible and clean.

The entrances were helped by the mature trees that give a very inviting look as one enters Adare.

General Impression:

Adare has certainly not lost its enthusiasm for the Tidy Towns and this year it was looking as good as ever.

The committee seems to get the best out of all sections of the Community as residents tend take great pride in their town and contribute in a very practical manner.

It takes a lot of hard and ongoing work to achieve this level performance in the competition and credit is due to everyone concerned.

Second Round Adjudication:

A by-pass for Adare has been discussed for at least half a century. It is understood from your notes that your Association is pressing for this essential means of alleviating the traffic problem in the main street. On second adjudication day it was difficult to appreciate the pleasant nature of Adare because of the incessant traffic, much of it container trucks and lorries. One took one's life in one's hands trying to cross the Maigne bridge on foot because there is no footpath – but it was noted how well your ancestors were better prepared for the passage of horse-drawn vehicles by building pedestrian niches! (Has it been ascertained if pedestrian lights at any point would help the present problem, or would they only make it worse?) It did seem that Adare in mid-summer was becoming visitor unfriendly due to traffic – yet the visual charm of the village remains, and maintenance of buildings, parks and the natural environment over the past year has been exemplary as always. A few points worth adding to the comments of the first adjudicator: both churches were visited – it happened that the Trinitarian Abbey was the scene of a wedding that day and the interior was spectacularly and most tastefully adorned for the occasion; the cloister of the Augustinian Abbey seemed a bit neglected – a matter of weeding and gravelling; the interior – featured in the Thames & Hudson book 'The Most Beautiful Villages of Ireland' – is really beautifully kept, a tribute to the parishioners; the exterior sign is a trifle misleading as several foreign visitors were turning back, being unable to find the door which is not through the cloister but to one side. An untidy and rusty

collection of signposts was noticed at the Village Hall intersection. A rusty corrugated barn on the left on the Curragh Chase road was noted, and an untidy derelict building almost opposite. The extensive building site in the centre of the village was very well screened; it is hoped that the resulting building will be in keeping with those on either side – knowing Adare's reputation, one is sure that they will be. Congratulations on your marking.