

Tidy Towns Competition 2013

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Adare** Ref: **440**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **307**
Category: **C** Date(s): **26/06/2013**
29/07/2013

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2012	Mark Awarded 2013
Overall Development Approach	50	46	46
The Built Environment	50	38	39
Landscaping	50	45	45
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	30	30
Litter Control	50	35	35
Sustainable Waste And Resource Management	20	10	11
Tidiness	30	19	20
Residential Areas	40	33	33
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	39	39
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	400	304	307

Overall Development Approach:

Adare is welcome to the 2013 TidyTowns competition and thank you for your application. Your map was helpful in finding our way around the village. There were initial difficulties downloading your files from the links provided so I would recommend for certainty that you send actual hard copy or email attachments. Thank you for providing the link to your TidyTowns Plan and other additional information. You have a strong committee of 19 members. You have strong links with Limerick Co Co, West Limerick Resources, OPW and An Taisce. You are engaging locally with the Business Association, Adare Community Council, AIB and local schools. Well done for appointing a schools liaison officer to engage with your four primary schools. You use local newspapers and quarterly newsletter to communicate your message. How do you avail of the 95fm environmental programme?

The Built Environment:

It is a joy to adjudicate Adare's built environment. It is what makes the village so special. During our visit lots of visitors were enjoying the traditional charm of the thatched cottages and colourful streetscape. The restoration of Holy Trinity church has been a mammoth achievement for the community. The building and lovely grounds were admired; however the sign near the door is faded and should be replaced. The side gate could be cleaned. The construction work was noted at the derelict house on Main St. We look forward to seeing the improvements next year. You have a small number of unoccupied premises on Main St. Are you engaging with owners and/or Limerick County Council regarding the presentation of these buildings? The stunning view of Desmond Castle as one approaches from Limerick sets the tone for what it to come. Adare Manor's beautiful entrances, stone walls and boundary landscaping greatly enhance this approach. The row of thatched cottages/businesses with their colourful cottage gardens was admired. These are beautifully maintained by their owners. Our Lady's Abbey school complements the church next door and has impressive grounds. In contrast, the new COI school nearby is settling into its landscape as planting matures. The grass roof was admired. The Augustinian Abbey is another historical gem. The graveyard is well presented as is the Heritage Centre car park. Other buildings that caught the eye included Lena's, Adare Pharmacy, Adare Market Place, Vokes, Sean Collin bar, Bill Chawke's bar and the Town Hall. Are there any plans for the lovely court house building? The modern AIB fits in well to the more traditional landscape through clever use of tree cover and landscaping. The Garda Station looks well as does the Grotto with its well maintained landscaping.

Landscaping:

Your impressive efforts in this category enhance Adare village but don't detract from its character. The Town Park is one of the highlights and beautifully cared for. Flowers bring a splash of colour to the recently upgraded washing pool area. Hanging baskets and tubs throughout the village centre enhance the streetscape and brighten up wide paved areas such as outside the Takeaway/Hair salon on the Kildimo Rd. Mature trees on approaches add to the character and sense of history. The stunning rose beds opposite Adare Manor really add to the path linking the village with the River walk. The grounds of Trinity Church were admired. The Heritage Centre also provides a pleasant place to sit and enjoy the music. The box hedging and lavenders were admired here. Well done to all the businesses that make efforts to brighten up the premises with flower displays. The bed at the Balingarry road requires attention as does the bed inside the river walk entrance opposite the old Station. Even the bring centre is adorned with flowers! Landscaping at the golf club entrance further enhances this approach. Well done to all involved in the wonderful presentation. I'm sure you score highly in the Limerick in Bloom competition – let us know next time.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You are fortunate to have the West Limerick Resources training course at your disposal. We look forward to hearing about your follow up actions as a result of this informative report. Your planned strategy to deal with your invasive species is welcomed. Please give us a progress report on this next time as well as an update on your planned Bat survey and wildlife survey. The main thrust of this category is to identify what wildlife is in the community, then to assist in protecting it and raising awareness of it. Some schools are working on their 'biodiversity' theme as part of their green schools programme. In this case, working in conjunction with the local school would be of great benefit.

Litter Control:

Litter control is generally excellent. There was minor littering along the stone walls on the Limerick approach. The biggest disappointment was heavy littering at the busy bus parking area in the Heritage Centre car park. It wasn't cleaned up in the few hours we were visiting. Well done for your frequent litter patrols. You only refer to clean ups in the Town Park and car park. Who does litter picks in the wider village? The bottle banks were in excellent order. Please read the category headings carefully as there is confusion between this and the 'Sustainable Waste & Resource Management' category. Well done to the school children for getting involved. All residential areas were litter free during our visit. Do you segregate materials for recycling? Awareness is an important element of this category. Please tell us about your various efforts to promote your litter campaigns. You can submit sample evidence. The dog bins were noted on the river bank. Has the dog fouling problem improved? Have you carried out any awareness campaign in this regard? Bins were well maintained. The litter bin at the court house is in poor condition and should be replaced.

Sustainable Waste And Resource Management:

Is the compost facility at the Woodlands Hotel for its own use only? Well done for composting your green waste and later using it on your landscaping projects. Your Environmental Awards scheme is a wonderful initiative. Tell us more. Well done for hosting a waste prevention/home composting workshop. You should provide some details (or photo) of how many attended and any outcomes if any. How do you promote home composting? Your participation in the WLR/An Taisce Tidy Towns training is also helping you progress in this category. We look forward to hearing about further initiatives next time. Well done to St. Nicholas's N.S. for achieving their 4th Green Flag for Travel. Did they organise any 'walk on Wednesdays' or similar initiatives as part of their programme? This cuts down on your carbon footprint and your traffic! Please let us know the status of the other three schools in relation to Green Flags. There are very close links between this programme and some Tidy Towns categories so you can help each other. You should also mention any water or energy saving measures, e.g. for watering plants/flowers during summer season.

Tidiness:

There's no need to tell you about the traffic flow issue! Thank you for the update on the by-pass project which unfortunately is back to the drawing board. You are complemented for your engagement in this process. There are quite a few advertising (temporary) signs along verges near the Limerick Rd roundabout. They detract from the otherwise attractive entrance to the village. Do you have a policy on this? It is great to hear the further removal of overhead cables has been completed. Recent work on footpaths is noted. Weed control along footpaths is very good. The 'Augustinian Abbey' sign pole could be painted. The brown tourist information sign on the Kildimo Rd could be cleaned. Flag poles and wires give a cluttered impression at Serendipity and O' Coileain's. Look out for disused hanging basket brackets and holders. Torn flags should be removed, e.g. at Sean Collin's bar. The lay-by near the old station was a little untidy but litter free.

Residential Areas:

Residential areas were a joy to adjudicate. Most were presented to a high standard and litter was nonexistent. You mention grass management being covered by the grass management programme? Who cuts the grass or funds it? Do any or all of these developments have residents associations? Are you trying to move towards getting each development to be responsible for its own area? It is worth offering support to any estate wishing to set up a residents association. The nine new trees at the 'Cottages' were noted – hopefully they will thrive. One never tires of admiring these and similar cottages that are unique to Adare. The village has an interesting mix of traditional cottages and modern developments. It was nice to see that the new house designs are sympathetic to the character of the village. The Village is an impressive new development with good tree planting and

landscaping. It was nice to see the back areas left 'wild'. The more mature estate on the Kildimo Road needs a name; otherwise it is neatly presented. Manor Court is neatly presented with attractive landscaping at its entrance. Black Abbey Court estate is another attractive development calling out for a name. Landscaping is maturing nicely and the black hoardings are well maintained. Could the 'For Sale' sign be removed from the entrance? Further out, Deer Park residents show pride of place through planting of flower beds. Only one hard surface here requires weed control. Ascaill na Pairce has a lovely green area with mature trees.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approach roads are well maintained and your boundaries are well defined by your attractive name signs and subtle use of planting for colour and interest. This adjudicator feels that the name sign on the Rathkeale Rd should be further out past the Ballingarry turnoff. The standard of laneways, car parks and back areas is particularly impressive. E.g. Centra surrounds and the laneways around the older residential areas.

General Impression:

It is always a pleasure to spend time in Adare. Your built heritage is the highlight of the village but you have many other assets including beautiful landscaping and a wealth of natural amenities on your doorstep. Please pay attention to the category headings so the right information is in the right place. Thank you for a fine presentation and keep up the good work.

Second Round Adjudication:

It is always a pleasure to visit Adare- it's charming streetscapes never fail to make an impression and lift the spirits! It looked as well as ever on second adjudication day. The Desmond Castle and Augustinian Priory make a marvellous impact on the Limerick side of the village. The original gate lodge to Adare Manor and associated planting looked well - indeed planting throughout was as well maintained as ever-the bullrushes beside the entrance closer to the centre looked marvellous! The park is a fantastic facility to have in the village centre. The stone walling and overhanging trees on the Limerick side of the village are an attractive entrance to the village. However, some weeding was required at the base of the stone wall and the odd paper was visible - presumably due to the large volume of traffic continuously passing through the village. Otherwise, litter control was good on the day. The neatly cut raised grass area at the golf club entrance created a positive impression. The commercial and public premises looked well on the day - of note being the stone church in its prominent location and the Tourist Centre with its cheerful awning, the monument area and the mustard coloured Dunraven Arms. Some rusting was evident below a redundant piece of metal (possibly a former flag pole?) to a shopfront. There is a good use of the Irish language throughout. Scoil Naomh Iosaf and grounds were well maintained-the overhanging trees, stone walling and grey painted fencing giving an elegant effect to the roadside. The colourful nasturtiums atop a crenelated stone wall of a house opposite made a positive impression. The station could be restored to its former glory - this is a fine building. Some rear areas and neglected entranceways (to an industrial area?) looked a little neglected on this road. Some of the green litter bins could be freshened up before next year's competition. The tourist village of Adare continues to maintain a high standard in the competition -well done to all concerned!