

# Tidy Towns Competition 2014

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Adare** Ref: **440**  
County: **Limerick** Mark: **312**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **22/06/2014**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2014</b>
Community Involvement & Planning	60	48
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	40
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	46
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	31
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	13
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	59
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	35
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	40
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>312</b>

### Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Adare is very welcome to the 2014 Supervalu Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your excellent entry form, work programme and map. One small rather picky recommendation - on your map some of the numbers are a little hard to see, perhaps for next year, ask the draftsman to change the underlying base map to a light grey or similar colour so that the numbers will be easily seen. You would appear to have an organised and active committee comprising twenty members who are further supported by local residents and other community groups and participate in a number of other initiatives such as Limerick in Bloom and indeed hold your own Annual Environmental Awards – well done. You are fortunate to receive good support from a range of agencies and bodies such as Adare Business Association and Adare Recreational and Community Complex. We thank them and the others that support you for their assistance. You are communicating well with the local community and we had a quick look at your Facebook page. Regular communication is paramount to getting your message across so ensure your social media updates and information is current and frequent (perhaps fortnightly). We like how you have engaged the younger members of the community not only through your liaison with the four primary schools but also through the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. We wonder how you engage with the teenagers and other young adults. What an achievement to be celebrating fifty years service to the Tidy Towns movement! CONGRATULATIONS! What a delight to adjudicate your village on a sunny summer Sunday! The hard work and dedication on your committee and all those that came before you is evident at every turn. You are to be highly commended for your persistence and determination, spanning fifty years, that has helped maintain Adare as a delightful charming and picturesque heritage village famous the world over.

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

We visited a wealth of built heritage on our adjudication including Desmond Castle (from the road only), the Priory, the thatch cottages, Holy Trinity Abbey Church, the Village Fountain, the Dovecote, Station House, and the Town Hall. All bring interest and a mix of character at various locations and viewpoints. Unfortunately, we had no time to venture into the grounds of Adare Manor. Encourage business owners to pay attention to the small details in the presentation of their shop frontage. This is especially important as you are competing with high calibre contenders in this competition. For example, we noted weeds in the guttering of Boyle Sports and vegetation on the chimney of The Arches. Traditional signage is so much more in keeping with the heritage style and rural charm of your village so encourage this where possible. For example, the modern signage at the Barber Rooms at Desmond Drive is not as aesthetically pleasing as other more traditional signs, such as Draíocht Gallery and Shop. There are so many well-presented colourful properties in and around the town – well done to all involved. Are works ongoing to the 'Park Avenue' premises located next door to The Market Place Bistro? It is not to the same high standard as its neighbouring properties. Objekt looks well and it is great to hear that this site, which was derelict only last year, has now been put to good use once more. One of the thatch properties near the Blue Door and Restaurant 1826 is not

as lovingly kept as the others. Perhaps the committee would tend to the weeds in the lawn and paint the gate, if given permission to do so. The Adare GAA clubhouse and grounds are well maintained. Some weeds are in need of attention along the car park boundary wall. Are there any plans to paint the block wall? Good grass maintenance and strimming was noted here. On the Rathkeale Road, the Campus Filling Station was clean and tidy and Gurney's garage looks freshly painted. We visited the Adare Recreation and Community Centre Complex, a first-class facility for the younger generation. There seems to be no signage anywhere in the town for this facility.

### **Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:**

We were sorry to read in your application that you, like many centres in the area, suffered numerous fallen trees in the February storm. It is heartening to note that already you are working to plant new trees. Your landscaped public spaces such as the Town Park and around the Wash Pool are excellent. Many people were enjoying these amenities on adjudication day. The River Walk is another wonderful amenity and we walked a stretch of this. How are you working with the Office of Public Works / An Taisce in relation to eradication of invasive species along the walk and river banks? Be careful regarding weed control near Druid's Quay as there seemed to quite an excessive use of weed killer here. So many properties have enhanced their premises with colourful hanging baskets, window boxes and planting. Pubs and restaurants such as Sean Collins, Pat Collins and The Arches are leading the way with their colourful displays. A huge window box display is also worthy of mention at the Velvet and Serendipity premises. The adjudicator and many passersby were in awe at the wonderful show of colour in the garden of the Lucy Erridge premises. Best of luck with your entry to Limerick in Bloom this year, we have no doubt that you will do well.

### **Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fiadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádúrtha:**

You have completed a number of worthy projects under this category such as participation and contribution to the West Limerick Tidy Towns Network Report, bat survey in Curraghchase Forest Park in conjunction with Bat Conservation Ireland and the invasive species survey along the River Maigue as part of a national survey. However, we wonder how you make the local residents more aware of the wildlife and natural amenities.

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

Recycling facilities at the entrance to the Heritage Centre are maintained to a high standard, these were very clean on adjudication day – well done. We noted the Green Flag at St. Nicolas National School at the Augustinian Priory. The school is of a wonderful modern design and well incorporated into this sensitive location. We particularly liked the grass/vegetative roof! We really liked the school garden at Our Ladies Abbey School and spotted their green flag as well. We note from your entry form that each school has the green flag status, this is a great achievement. You participated in a waste minimisation workshop organised by Limerick County Council – has this given you ideas to take forward? The majority of your projects are in relation to recycling. Recycling should be the norm - this category is concerned with how you promote resource efficiency in your community. You could use your Facebook page to engage with the community of issues such as reducing food waste, water consumption, energy conservation, sustainable transport etc). You need to set the bar higher and work on this category with the same vigour as you give to other categories. Consult <http://localprevention.ie/tidy-towns/> for some excellent examples of projects by other groups to get some inspiration for forthcoming projects.

### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

Some roadside litter was noted on the approach from Newcastle West as well as on the grass area around the Lantern Lodge roundabout on the other side of town. Litter control was to a very high standard in the centre of the town on adjudication day. The bin outside Adare Village Farmhouse was quite full. The standard of the bins throughout the town are quite varying and perhaps even some are in need of replacing or a good maintenance and painting as they are becoming very dirty and rusted. Some litter was seen in the car park of the Adare Recreation and Community Centre Complex. We note that it is your intention to encourage users to take home their litter and no litterbins are in place. Perhaps you need to communicate this message a little more. Unfortunately, some dog foul was noted just at the entrance to the River Bank Walk at the Friary. The nearby sign 'Attention all dog owners' was obviously ignored. There is a rather unsightly building to the rear of Vokes Hardware that could do with some attention. Some seating along the River Bank Walk is in need of painting. Pay attention to signage – we thought the information sign near the entry to the Heritage Centre Car Park would benefit from cleaning.

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

Housing in the town is to a very high standard. The lovely cottages on the Rathkeale Road and at Blackabbey are gems. Properties in the centre of town that really stood out to the adjudicator for their excellent presentation included the 'pink house' at Market Place, the charming house beside the Campus filing station with bright red door and red and black railings, yellow house beside Isobel's boutique and the delightful thatch cottage Tír na nÓg with bright yellow window frames beside Lucy Erridge. We visited many residential housing estates in the town and all are presented to a wonderfully neat and tidy appearance. Planters at Abbey Court were bare, consider using plant varieties to give some year round colour in these stone planters. At Blackabbey Gate the planting and landscaping is maturing well. A nice line of trees was noted in Desmond Drive however, we feel these trees no longer need their supports. The new entrance stone at The Village (at Adare Manor) was noted. The presentation in Park Avenue was excellent.

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

Generally, the approaches to Adare are to a very high standard with lovely mature planting. On the approach from Newcastle West we note nice planters outside WW Doherty and Sons however the forecourt is in rather poor condition here. Would you consider planting climbers along the green fence near the Adare Heritage Towns sign on the Newcastle West approach? Kegs were neatly stacked on the footpath at Sean Collin's and Bill Chawke's bars. While we advise against this, we recognise in this instance, the accessibility of the pedestrian footpath has not been affected. Continue to ensure that this is the case and that all footpaths are accessible to all types of users. You adjudicator would suggest that the green pump located on the Green across from Áibhéil Bridal Shop is treated with a fresh coat of paint. White road markings at some of the pedestrian crossings are very faded and could be upgraded, particularly the one near Centra. It would appear (from the numerous tyre track marks) that vehicles tend to drive over the Lantern Lodge Roundabout. Many other centres would have colourful attractive planting on a main approach roundabout such as this. Colourful flower displays adorn the road before the 50 km speed signs at Adare Manor. Stonewalls are a nice addition in places, take care of these; top of wall is missing across from Blackabbey Gate. We suggest you strim the roadside verge near the Deer Park Estate.