

Tidy Towns Competition 2015

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Adare** Ref: **440**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **316**
Category: **C** Date(s): **16/06/2015**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014	Mark Awarded 2015
Community Involvement & Planning	60	48	49
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	40	40
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	46	47
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	31	31
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	13	14
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	59	60
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	35	35
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	40	40
TOTAL MARK	450	312	316

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Adare is welcomed back to the national TidyTowns competition. Thank you for your precise, easy-to read submission and its appendices. For a small town entrant into the competition (population 1001-2500) you have a lot of tourists in Adare which would put extra demand on the 31 active members of your committee. But this does not seem to deter you. You have an extensive range of organisations, educational bodies, youth groups and many more with whom you work to achieve the aims of your three year work programme – 2013-2015. It would be useful if you were able to indicate on this plan whether or not you have achieved the relevant actions identified for each year. Thank you for the extra effort put into the map which meant it was a lot easier for your adjudicators to orientate themselves and find details of specific projects worked upon in 2014/2015.

Work with young people is important for the long-term sustainability of Adare TidyTowns. Thus it was great to read of the support and involvement of the teenagers especially for the Limerick clean-up. Well done to all the scouts and beavers who earned their community badges by helping out this year also.

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

The re-thatching works was noted – well done as these thatched cottages add so much to the character of Adare and are key part of the village's heritage. Your adjudicators would like to extend their sympathy to the cottages that recently burnt down. Please note that no marks were deducted in this regard.

A high number of premises looked very well on the main streetscape. The choice of heritage-toned paint colours for premises looked well including Aisling Maher's, Kitty's off-license and also Casey & Company solicitors with its sustainable wooden sash windows. Aunty Lena's public house was brightly painted with nice window boxes. Perhaps signage for chain stores such as Centra should be adapted for the town/village where they are located? It was felt that the bright colours of the Centra signs jarred here. Likewise the new shop "Object" was painted in a very bright modern tone that didn't blend with the streetscape and colour choices used elsewhere.

The Garda Station looked well. "Serendity" had wonderful window boxes and was also painted in a very nice tone but the hanging Christmas lights and temporary signs here at the beauticians next door didn't work so well. The Post Office looked very well and the new paint work was inspected and admired. But be wary of the more modern protruding signs which are prevalent on many post offices. Raincin's newsagent caught the eye of the adjudicator for looking well also. Though the Old Court House was closed it was good to read in its windows of its design and listing on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage. Are there any plans for this building?

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

There are a large number of beautiful cottage gardens with fox gloves and other similar plants that are great for insects and nectar production. It is suggested that you remove some of the rubber stays supporting trees in the town park where they are now damaging the trees. The town park looked very well with its recently painted railings and street furniture presenting nicely well.

All the planters throughout Adare all co-ordinated well, were freshly painted and had a lovely array of flowers in each container, the colours of which worked well.

The many mature trees throughout Adare, many of which are easily over 100 years old, were wonderful to admire. A sustained programme of adding and replacing trees to ensure Adare will still be full of trees in 2115 is recommended.

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

Your adjudicator was treated to views of an egret on the River Maigue. As you have pointed out this area is part of the Lower Shannon Special Area of Conservation. This forms part of the "Natura 2000" network of sites across Europe designated as they are important for wildlife at a European level. The continued promotion of this is important in Adare. The riverside would be an ideal place to host a bat walk, or a dawn chorus survey for the wider community of Adare. You could also invite the wider community to share wildlife information on your FaceBook page or twitter account eg. 'First swallow returns to Adare in 2016'. The schools have taken part in some nice wildlife projects including a mini-beast survey.

It was nice to see the ferns on the stone walls by the Abbey. The line of silver birch by the heritage centre may be a good place to erect some bird boxes and involve the community in monitoring activity here. Your adjudicators advise that you audit the stays/ supports on the trees on Black Abbey Road as some appear to be rubbing the bark of some of the trees.

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

Congratulations to all four local primary schools who have achieved Green Flags. The use of home-made compost for the hundreds of plants at the "Festival of Faith and Flowers" is a worthy action in this category of the competition. Do you use your own compost in the public planters throughout Adare? The vegetable gardens in Our Lady's NS were all admired including the potatoes, beans and rhubarb growing here. Congratulations to Woodland's House Hotel for their responsible tourism award.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Well done on our work and actions in this category including the "No Junk Mail" and the "Dog Fouling Awareness" campaigns. There are numerous litter bins throughout Adare so there is hardly a chance of any litter being deposited! In the town park alone your adjudicator could see 12 from the Band Stand area. There was a little graffiti and litter at the riverside walk area. The white road lines and markings have deteriorated and would need to be reapplied.

The sharing of information on your FaceBook page was admired and it was great to see the clean up at Druid's Quay just days after your adjudicators first visited Adare.

Commercial signage had improved a lot since your adjudicators last visited the town. Take care with too many protruding signs on upper floors of premises.

There was a metal post outside Raincin's newsagent with no sign on it that should be removed. Further up Rathkeale Road a speed camera warning sign was covered in a series of stickers that should be removed also. Care with storage of kegs at the front of public houses and ensure they are tight to the walls. Some of the utility boxes at the edge of pavements could be painted.

Railings at the pedestrian entrance of Adare Boy's NS could be re-painted and the flag poles straightened here. The grounds and hanging baskets of the school are excellent and well done to all involved here at Adare Boy's NS.

Some cigarette butts had accumulated at the kerb on Black Abbey Road. Tidiness is an issue at the entrance to some side alleys which are becoming very pot-holed. For example, the entrance to the hardware store beside the old court house. Some weed growth was noted in the gutters at the Credit Union and the Credit Union sign was a little rusty.

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

There is a nice mix in Adare of residential homes alongside businesses on the Main Street. There could be pressure for more commercial properties to take over but the current balance works very well. Homes in The Avenue were beautifully presented at the entrance into this oasis. Lime Tree avenue was also nicely presented but no name was noted here for the area. A lot of grass is being cut here and maybe this cutting regime could be staggered to allow some of the grass towards the rear of the open area to grow longer to benefit wildlife and save time and money? It was sad to note that some of the residential properties have had PVC windows installed. Perhaps promotion of appropriate alterations could be addressed with assistance from Clare County Council and your Heritage or Conservation Officers?

Residential planting schemes were also executed to the same high level of planting as on the Main Street. Pockets where you would not expect flowers were also provided. For example, on the first property on Desmond Road, wall-mounted flowers were planted behind black ornate railings that looked well. . This is a great example of how in places where there is little room, a splash of colour can still be provided that benefits wildlife by providing pollen and nectar!

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

All approaches into Adare are very well presented and the mature trees provide a real sense of place for the passer-by. The back lane running parallel to Rathkeale Road had some nice allotments. Some of the more modern premises on side roads have also made a big effort to look well. The chip shop on Station Road has numerous containers outside brimming with flowers. The ironworks next door also was painted nicely at the front in a strong heritage colour. The roof of this building may need some attention in the longer term. The Creamery looked well and again had a great display of flowers. But the hanging Christmas icicles on the exterior of this building was not appropriate in the Summer.

Concluding Remarks:

51 years of support and dedication for the TidyTowns competition is no mean feat so well done to all the community of Adare for their efforts over the decades into making Adare one of Ireland's "Tidiest Towns".