

Tidy Towns Competition 2013

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ardfert**

Ref: **677**

County: **Kerry**

Mark: **260**

Category: **B**

Date(s): **25/06/2013**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2012	Mark Awarded 2013
Overall Development Approach	50	34	34
The Built Environment	50	33	34
Landscaping	50	33	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	27	27
Litter Control	50	33	33
Sustainable Waste And Resource Management	20	6	6
Tidiness	30	22	23
Residential Areas	40	29	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	33	33
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	400	257	260

Overall Development Approach:

Ardfert is welcome to the 2013 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission, which included the completed application form, some photographs, newspaper articles and a village plan extract from the Statutory Development Plan.

Your core membership is small for a village of your size; however you are now receiving assistance from other community groups. Your committee continues to seek support from other interested agencies such as Kerry County Council, North East Kerry Development and the Rural Social Scheme. Well done on the formation of the Ardfert Development Association. This initiative should help to provide a focus for your on-going efforts.

The Built Environment:

Your village plan contains some fine objectives for the future development of Ardfert particularly in relation to building preservation and conservation, landscaping and traffic management. Many of the commercial buildings are well presented such as Spar, Post Office, Mac Bar and the Abbey Tavern. Kate Browne's Pub was particularly admired with its charming thatched roof. The cobbled forecourt here with external seating and tables looks very well. The free-standing sign is in need of a freshen-up. The Medical Centre is imposing and nicely designed but some of the individual lettering were missing and in need of replacement. Conservation works by the Office of Public Works continues at the monastic buildings and the results here are hugely impressive. The Community Centre opposite is well cared for and has some very colourful planting to its forecourt. St Brendan's Church and Pastoral Centre have excellent presentations and the refurbishment of the presbytery is very impressive.

Landscaping:

The village has some really attractive hard and soft landscaped areas. Stone walls are a feature throughout, many containing impressive coping details. The paving in front of McElligotts looks very well and would provide a very pleasant public realm if extended at the fountain area. The proposed traffic management plan offers an opportunity for visual improvement in the core and the removal of some very unsightly signage. Landscaping at the Glandore Gate looks very well and sets a future standard for the presentation of the remainder of the square. The church grounds and the new car park are very well presented as is the white-washed memorial opposite. The children's playground is very well-presented in a mature, well-maintained park and was well attended on the day of adjudication. The garden presentation to the front of the cottage on Church Road is very pleasant.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Congratulations to the school on achieving a fifth Green Flag all of which were flying during the visit. The wildflower gardens and pond development are good initiatives and they are to be commended on receiving professional advice. Perhaps the school could be encouraged to undertake a wildlife survey of your area on your behalf.

Litter Control:

Your regular litter patrols are obviously working well as the village was virtually litter free, particularly around the centre, during the visit. Well done on the participation of your school, the Brownies and local residents in the National Spring Clean.

Sustainable Waste And Resource Management:

Unfortunately, the Bring Centre was untidy and a number of plastic bottles, cans and paper littered the ground here. Well done on your efforts to minimise flyers and junk mail. Your proposal to establish a web site sounds exciting and we wish you well in this venture. We would again urge you to consult the Race Against Waste booklet and your Environmental Awareness Officer to make further advancement in this category.

Tidiness:

Signage remains a problem and is somewhat overpowering and unsightly in some areas, particularly at the Fountain. It is to be hoped that this issue will be rationalised with the implementation of your village traffic management plan in due course. Some mounds of rubble were deposited in front of the high screen wall at the side of Centra. The front boundary wall at the school was in need of cleaning. The painting of the side wall at Spar is a considerable enhancement. Well done on this! Reconstruction was noted at a house opposite Kate Browne's and this property now looks very well.

Residential Areas:

The village has a good number of housing schemes and all were visited, ranging from An Fearran at Station Road, including Walnut Grove, Casement View, St Brendan's Terrace and An Gluinin to Hazel Grove on Church Road. Maintenance was generally good throughout. Opposite the Hazel Grove entrance, the old health centre looks very unsightly with its garden overgrown and entrance gate rusting and hanging loose. The adjoining house, Breanainn, is beautifully presented and sets the standard here.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Weedy kerb lines remain a problem particularly outside the centre. Some areas of School Road are very weedy and some signage needs to be refreshed. Main approach roads are generally well-maintained but verge cutting is a little uneven. The inner areas at Fairgreen and the Cathedral area have a good standard.

General Impression:

The historical village of Ardfert retains a fine architectural quality. Your plan augurs well for its preservation and development. We wish you well on your future endeavours.