

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **AUGHRIM**
County : **WICKLOW**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 27-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19
Landscaping	40	29
The Built Environment	40	23
Litter Control	40	30
Tidiness	20	14
Residential Areas	30	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	300	209

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Welcome to the new format of the 1996 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your detailed questionnaire, map highlighting improvements over the past year together with your five year development plan. Well done on an excellent presentation. There are some challenging, but realistic proposals, set out in this plan. There is obviously a very strong community effort here and a strong commitment to this competition. It is in evidence in all areas of the village litter control, residential areas and the development of innovative new projects and amenity areas. There are a number of attractive buildings complemented by good use of plants and development of open spaces. It is nice to see that you are also promoting wildlife and providing a welcome facility for visitors. Overall, this is a fantastic effort, well done.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The National Disabled Angling Facility is an excellent project. The sign at the facility is also very attractive. Try, if possible, to remove the FAS and Leader signs. It would be nice to see the promotion of wild species and the use of interpretative display boards. At Rednagh Bridge, it is nice to see the bridge lowered making the river visible from the car while passing over it. Many other opportunities exist with the Aughrim River running through the village. A good variety of wildlife was in evidence in the river also. Overall, it was quite a good performance under this heading with all the natural amenities well maintained.

LANDSCAPING

Excellent use is made of flowers in all available spaces throughout Aughrim. This also puts a huge commitment on maintenance, watering, etc. but it is obvious that this is within the scope of the Tidy Towns Committee. All the gardens had excellent presentations. The Poplar trees by the bridge provide a good shield to the former Cattle Mart. St Martins Drive was a beautiful presentation with work on-going at time of adjudication. The adjudicator was very disappointed with the rockery. The pool was stagnant, with no water flowing; heathers were being replaced and a litter bin was noted on the feature - try to get this sorted out. The streetscape was also very good with very good use of traditional street furniture. The adjudicator would especially like to commend the use of natural growth plant containers. The adjudicator also noted excellent efforts at Crocagh View, Our Ladies Drive, McCreggan Park and Heather Glen. Birch planting was noted at the Church. Tree planting was noted at the field opposite Woodfab. The Tinakilly River bridge area was also very neat, tidy and well presented. New landscaping works were taking place around the Tinakilly river area. Well done! This should be a very nice feature when completed. Nice flower beds were noted at a number of places, for example, near the Church; excellent use of flowers at the Greenan Farm Museum sign leading up to Glenn Road; the roses were very attractive on the approach road to the National Disabled Angling Facility; and a very well presented area was noted down by the horseshoe shaped barn by the river. The Grotto area was also neat and tidy. Overall, an excellent performance in this section.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Very good efforts are made to maximise the presentation of a number of buildings, however, there is room for improvement in this area. Having said this, there are a number of premises that deserve mention - particularly, Lawless Hotel had an excellent presentation with the use of flowers; it was nice to see that the Church itself had been cleaned, it is nice to see that this cleaning programme has extended to the walls, well done; the flowers at Woodfab were nice; the Garda Station was an excellent presentation; good effort was noted with the flower boxes at Bradys on Nursery Way. One or two premises could be encouraged to work towards more appropriate shop front design and every encouragement should be given to these. O'Byrnes Pharmacy was very clean, neat and tidy as was the Delicatessen. It is nice to see that the Mart area is being developed.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control throughout Aughrim this year was excellent. Overall, an excellent performance in this section.

TIDINESS

Tidiness was also excellent which was helped, no doubt, by the effort by those involved in the presentation of open spaces, planting, buildings, etc. The area around the bridge was very neat and tidy. As already stated, the use of attractive containers for flowers are an example to other towns, well done in this regard. A barrel was noted at Rednagh Bridge which should be removed. The open space opposite the Lawless premises at the bridge could also be slightly improved. Overall, an excellent presentation in this category.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Your choice of trees, shrubs and flowers and where they have been sited are to be commended. They have also been very well maintained. Some of the parks have already been mentioned under Landscaping and the adjudicator can only comment that all areas are looking very well. Some areas that were not mentioned include Lourdes Crescent and Pinewood Grove. Again, an excellent effort here and the majority of residents have to be commended for their efforts, not just in residential parks but good individual efforts also.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

On the approach roads to Aughrim the visitor is immediately greeted with a neat, tidy and very attractive welcoming image. The approach signs are very attractive. At the Tinahely approach and Arklow approach, at the junction over the bridge, the flowers are very attractive. On the right hand side, the stud fencing and cut grass give a very neat appearance and on the left hand side approaching from Tinahely, try to work on the wall. On the Rathdrum approach, it was very tidy also - grass cutting was taking place at time of adjudication, giving a very neat appearance. At Van de Wells, the verges had been very neatly cut. Good planting was noted on Nursery Way in open spaces. The roads were generally litter free. What really raised the attention of the adjudicator was the extremely neat appearance of the lane adjacent to the river which was absolutely immaculate. The only negative side would be the use of weed killers on the Aghavannagh/Rednagh Road approach, try to avoid this if possible, as it takes from the overall appearance.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The adjudicator feels that you have created an extremely attractive and beautiful place to live in. There was an excellent impression left with the adjudicator backed up by good evidence of work on the ground. You are progressing very well in this competition. Your promotion of new projects and amenities in the town are strongly commended and also the excellent general impression was added to by residents working away throughout the village - at St. Martin's Drive which is already immaculate and innovative in design and also, the new projects at Tinakilly River. Congratulations to the residents, commercial sector and support agencies who have helped create a magnificent village. Keep up the effort. The adjudicator would like to wish Aughrim every success in the coming years. Good luck with your plans.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (15/08/996)

Some consideration might be given to the development of a wildlife garden. It was good to note that the Leader sign has been removed from the angling facility since our first visit with only the FAS sign now to be removed. A number of properties could be painted to freshen their appearance. Do keep up the efforts to have all inappropriate signage eliminated from business properties. The walls forming the entrance into the Sports grounds would look better if either planted or plastered and painted or both. The garage premises near the junction with the main street still needs to be painted. Morrissey's at the bridge

could be cleaned or painted to freshen it's appearance. Litter control was not quite as good on our second visit. There was a light scattering of litter around most of the town. Particular weak spots were outside of the O'Duil shop and around the rockery in St. Martins residential development. The litter bin located on the rockery here detracts from the overall presentation and does not seem to be solving the litter problem, so it ought to be relocated as recommended by the first adjudicator. The overall impression of Aughrim is favourable and is very pleasant to spend an afternoon in your lovely town.