

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **AVOCA**
County : **WICKLOW**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 27-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	20
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13
Landscaping	40	22
The Built Environment	40	24
Litter Control	40	24
Tidiness	20	12
Residential Areas	30	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	300	165

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Welcome to the new format of the 1996 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your questionnaire and map which was very helpful during the course of adjudication. The adjudicators look forward to the submission of your five year work programme. In this programme you should have proposals for the development of wildlife. One area of concern is that the village had tended to turn its back on the river. On the day of adjudication, the town was very busy, no doubt with visitors seeking out Ballykissangel stars, which, while putting pressure on the town has also benefited it in terms of a much neater appearance. The adjudicators would also like to wish the area success with the LIFE Programme.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

There is potential for greater nature conservation in the village. A good starting point would be to identify the wildlife habitats in your catchment area and see what species of animals, birds, fish etc. these attract. Why not invite local environmental experts and groups to get involved to advise you and provide you with the specialist information you require. School children also have a very practical role to play in this. Try to look to the river in developing some of these areas. In this regard, the adjudicators acknowledge the difficulties caused by the mines and hopefully this could be resolved in years to come through the LIFE Programme. There is some good planting of trees around the village. The stream in Avoca Handweavers was a very attractive feature.

LANDSCAPING

It is nice to see that the car park at the Church grounds has been surfaced with a grotto/planting area being built at time of adjudication. Avoca Handweavers was very neat and tidy with an excellent presentation by the stream. A nice flower bed was noted on the Vale Road at the Avoca sign, making a very good impression. Try to develop more open spaces where possible including the field off the Main Street, if it is not being used for development over the coming years.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Good efforts are apparent throughout the village. The Church and its grounds were very well presented. Well done. The school on Beech Road was also very well maintained. Fitzgeralds was very neat and tidy, even in light of the large number of visitors outside it. Good flowers were noted at Henleys. Perhaps the plastic signage at the Food Market could be improved. The Garda Station could benefit from window boxes. The Parish Hall is an area that needs more attention. It needed to be painted at time of adjudication, the grounds were particularly bad and the Monster Bingo Sign was not in-keeping. The Avoca Inn could also be brightened up. The flowers at the Avoca Post Office were attractive. It was nice to see the work completed at the GAA grounds but try to consider more landscaping works outside it.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was very good in Avoca this year. All along the Main Street was litter free as was the area by the bridge and residential areas. Good effort in this regard.

TIDINESS

There was a very good impression left with the adjudicators of Avoca this year. All areas were neat and tidy. There is room for improvement in some of the premises. Try not to put out too many signs on the road - it is a narrow street on which too many signs lead to unnecessary cluttering. The Bus Stop area on the main road was also very clean and tidy. It is also nice to note the flowers, which are obviously being watered regularly. The approach roads were relatively clean and tidy, apart from one area.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The adjudicators would firstly like to commend the excellent improvements noted at Woodview Park this year. Congratulations and well done to those concerned. The bollards had been painted and flower baskets had been placed on poles. Tree planting was an excellent improvement and litter control was very good apart from small sprinklings at the turning area. At Station Road good effort was noted with good individual efforts at, for example, Numbers 13 and 14. The area was also litter free. The adjudicators noted tyres being used for the development of flower beds - try not to use these. There must be something more appropriate, such as, wood or stone, which could be used as containers in this regard. There are other good individual efforts throughout Avoca, for example, Old Hall was very well presented.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach road from Arklow was relatively litter free with trees planted and litter bin noted. Paint the Avoca sign. Unfortunately, closer to the centre of the village small sprinklings of litter were noted. Also, try to repair the broken wall. The approach from Redcross was also litter free, and the appearance by the bridge was very tidy. Both the Vale Road and Rathdrum Road were very well presented. It was nice to see flower tubs on the Main Street. Overall, a good presentation.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The adjudicators have noted considerable improvement on last year. This is to be commended. Try to further encourage more efforts and maybe perhaps taking on one or two new projects in the development of amenities. Also, try to include the school children of the village. The adjudicators would especially like to commend the improvements made at Woodview Park this year. Well done. The adjudicators would like to wish the village every success with its exposure to Ballykissangel and it is hoped that with this exposure considerable improvements can be brought about over the coming years.