

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ARVAGH**
County : **CAVAN**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 16-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	32
The Built Environment	40	30	30
Landscaping	40	24	23
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	14
Litter Control	40	28	30
Tidiness	20	11	11
Residential Areas	30	18	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	25
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	189	187

Arvagh, County Cavan

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Arvagh Development Association and Tidy Towns Organisation are obviously bodies with much enthusiasm and energy. The level of support you receive from both local business and the private community must be of great benefit to you. Your widespread plans for the town would seem to have shown a great sensitivity in terms of the use of appropriate materials and indigenous planting and are well worthwhile. Keep up the good work and best wishes for these future endeavours.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Buildings, in general, throughout the town looked well cared for on adjudication day. It is important to bear in mind that gable walls are quite prominent along Main Street at junctions and where buildings step up and down. In particular those with painted advertising signs need to be attended to just as much as the facades of buildings. There are still a few plastic signs which need to be replaced with more appropriate timber ones. The school could be freshly painted; its forecourt playground area looked quite bare and would benefit from some landscaping. Brady's garage is extremely prominent at the curve of Main Street on the Cavan approach and could also be freshened up, as could the boundary wall to the GAA grounds. It was reassuring to note that plans are in progress for the concrete wall adjacent to this and running up to the church. The stone church looked very well and its grounds were beautifully manicured in their presentation. The car park opposite looks quite bare although the pansies to the top of the coping of the wall were admired. However, the frames to the entrance/exits to this car park are in need of some attention. The Garda Station was very fresh and the Church of Ireland and its grounds were very well maintained. Thomas Brady's shopfront was very fresh as was that to Ronnie's Fruit & Veg which was very cheerful indeed. Work was in progress to the building beside the school and of special mention is Seery's Bar which looked very fresh and cheerful in a bright yellow with a blue trim. They are to be commended for their retention of the original windows which looked resplendent with their window boxes of pansies and geraniums.

LANDSCAPING

Landscaped areas throughout the town looked well on the day, with many colourful flowers dotted throughout the town. The Maxol station is to be commended for its attractive planting to its forecourt. Perhaps the hard landscaped area to the front of the Market House will be softened in time as this is the focal point of the town and looks quite harsh at the moment. The amenity / playground by the Garty Lough is obviously well used. However, algae growth was apparent at the white concrete fence leading down to the lake by the children's playground.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Arvagh is indeed fortunate in respect of this category with the river running through the heart of the town, Garty Lough at the end of Main Street and its close proximity to Lough Gowna. Your plans for these areas are noted and commendable. Perhaps you could get the local school children involved in order to carry out a project based on the local wildlife habitats in their town.

LITTER CONTROL

The standard in this category could have been improved upon. Quite a few papers were evident along Main Street in the gutters at the side of the pavement. More was apparent by the houses at the Carrigallen Road, behind the wall to the church car park and perhaps most significantly at the riverside area at Garty Lough and the walkway down to it.

TIDINESS

The overall impression created by the town was of an ordered and tidy appearance. However, there are one or two problem areas that still need attention. Unsightly storage yard areas should be screened from public view, particularly that to Brian Glade Tyres which sported an extremely grubby boundary wall. A derelict site beside the Breffi Arms gave a gapped-toothed appearance to Main Street. Hopefully construction work will be carried out in this area within the near future.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Houses throughout the town along the long approach roads looked well cared for on adjudication day. The residents of Arvagh obviously have great pride in their properties. However, some houses still need attention. Some of those along the Carrigallen / Killeshandra Road beside the Church of Ireland need freshening up although the gardens looked very attractive especially that with its colourful display of snap-dragons and red hot poker. The very fresh pink house on the Cavan Road diagonally opposite the church was greatly admired.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

There would appear to be have been a slight improvement in this category in comparison to previous years. Along the Cavan Road, the timber slated flower tubs by the nameplate sign were admired as was the sign proclaiming " Arvagh where the three provinces meet" on each of the approach roads. The verges on this road could have been neater. However, the new trees were admired. Along the Carrigallen Road the road surface was in very bad order, the pavement at one point petered out to nothing and was level with the road. The verges had been reasonably well cut back and the abundance of wild flowers such as foxgloves, roses and ferns in the hedgerows looked splendid. The Aghnacliff Road sported some new trees. The grass had been cut back but not cleared away. Some of the boundary walls along this road needed attention and the road surface again was in very bad condition. However, the wild honeysuckle at the hedgerows created a good impression.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The busy town of Arvagh, with its wealth of both natural and man-made heritage, looked well on adjudication day. Some areas still need attention, however, and these have been documented within this report.