

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **ARKLOW**  
County : **WICKLOW**  
Category : **E**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 19-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	35
The Built Environment	40	30	30
Landscaping	40	34	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	24
Litter Control	40	28	28
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	26
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>220</b>

## **Arklow, County Wicklow**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENT APPROACH**

Thank you for the very comprehensive material supplied with the application form. For a committee of ten people a great amount of activity has been generated and in relation to the size of the town this is a great achievement. The plans are interesting and cover a wide range of activities. With such enormous changes taking place in Arklow over the past few years, such as the bypass with all its consequences and the building developments, new demands and pressures are placed on the town and a good response is important to ensure the town and surrounds maintain a good standard. With so many public bodies involved in the development of a town of this size, much of the work of the tidy towns committee should be to lobby bodies to ensure that developments are in the town's best interests and that care and attention to detail is maintained.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

There is a combination of the original street buildings, a number of factory sites, dockland areas, old residential areas and a dramatic amount of new housing, including apartments. This makes for a varied building inventory and it is interesting now to contrast the terraced houses out along the Brittas Bay road with the developments at places like Abbey Heights, the riverside apartments and the Arklow Marina Village. The core of the town has the attractive Courthouse and Catholic Church with its fine residence alongside. The Church of Ireland, St. Saviours, is a magnificent building with very well maintained grounds. Of the newer buildings the Fire station, Garda station and Credit Union offer a new face of Arklow. The standard of premises along the main street and at the start of the street on the Gorey road is variable. Many are kept to an excellent standard while others would need some renovation and a better standard of upkeep. Attention to paint and shop signage is important in presenting an attractive picture. The large carpark by the Old Abbey Park opens up the backs of buildings which otherwise would not have been seen. This is a common problem in towns and remedies have to be found to alleviate the unattractiveness of the exposure of the backs of buildings.

### **LANDSCAPING**

There are many fine landscaping projects in Arklow. Very notable is the tree planting along the riverside towards the docks, harbour and port. These are growing well and add a great dimension to the entire area. Tree planting is one of the most significant landscape items and the value of trees is enormous. Any opportunity for tree planting should be availed of. Areas such as open spaces in housing estates,

streetsides and car parks are obvious places to focus on. The road from the roundabout at the top of the main street towards Gorey, as was mentioned last year, is dull and a tree planting campaign could help greatly. Many people take great interest in their gardens and these all contribute to the overall landscape of the town. Garden competitions and clubs can do much to promote these efforts. The grounds of the residence beside the Catholic Church are a lovely asset as are the grounds of St. Saviour's, which can be clearly seen from the Avoca Road. The planting scheme within the Court House is very attractive. Planting at the Fire station was in progress and both the planting at the Garda station and the Health Centre looked well. The Old Abbey Park is a very attractive feature and great work has been done at this site. The circular block enclosure may at some time in the future be replaced with stone in keeping with the entire surrounds of the site. The gates are attractive. The scouts garden is a lovely project and is a pleasant surprise.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The riverside and seafront areas offer tremendous opportunities for wild life interest. All efforts to introduce people to the wide range of wild life observation possible is laudable. The walkway along the riverside gives a nice relief from the street and further developments in this area will be welcome. Projects involving the local schools in relation to the appreciation of wild life would be helpful and encouraging.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter is an ongoing difficulty and constant vigilance and change of attitude is required so that improvements will follow. There were many areas litter free but unfortunately litter has gathered at several locations, for example, at the inside of the railings next to the Catholic Church. In Old Abbey park the litter bins were full to capacity, there was heavy litter at the entrance to the riverside walk by the Avoca road and several places through the streets litter was noted.

### **TIDINESS**

The terraced houses, which were well kept, give a very tidy appearance to parts of the town. The riverside areas towards the docks have been tidied up significantly over the years. Some areas, particularly the Gorey road from the main street, need attention. The industrial areas near the Knockmore roundabout and the area of the roundabout itself will require improvements.

### **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

There is a tremendous range of residential areas; some very old terraced houses, onstreet residences, apartments and large estates and individual houses on separate sites. Generally, there is a good standard of presentation. The

open spaces within housing estates offer great potential for tree planting. A simple formula of trees and well-maintained grass gives a very attractive appearance in housing estates. DeWadden Drive, the Abbey estates and Rory O'Connor place with the attractive red brick all look well. There is a considerable amount of residence within the town and where it's on streetsides, a nice atmosphere is created. The level of maintenance and garden presentation of each home in estates provides the standard pertaining to the entire estate.

### **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

There is a very good standard of approach roads to Arklow. The bypass entries are well presented. At Knockmore, as mentioned above, improvements are awaited.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Arklow has much to offer with the streetscape, riverside and coastal regions. Developments over the years are now paying off. However, there is still much to be done as many of the older areas need rejuvenation and some streetside premises will need upgrading. The work of the tidy towns committee is to be praised for its contribution and for the plans intended.