

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **AUGHRIM**  
County : **WICKLOW**  
Category : **C**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 19-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	46	45
The Built Environment	40	31	30
Landscaping	40	38	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	26	26
Litter Control	40	36	36
Tidiness	20	18	18
Residential Areas	30	26	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	33	32
General Impression	10	9	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>258</b>

# **Aughrim, County Wicklow**

## **OVERALL DEVELOPMENT APPROACH**

Looking over the five year plan 1998 to 2002, the achievements through those years is very impressive and still continues. Developments of riverside areas and riverside walks have brought a great asset to Aughrim and makes for very pleasant rambling walks. The very large committee of 20 is well above normal numbers for this size of town and there is great credit due to the strong committee for all their commitment to improvements over the years.

## **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Stone plays a major part of the built environment in Aughrim. There are many fine stone projects. The stone buildings are very attractive and this theme has been continued with stone wall buildings and the use of stone as paving where possible. The bridges, of course, add to this inventory of stone in a big way and the respect and treatment of the bridges is noteworthy. Stonewalls along the roadsides are attractive and the continuation of building with stone is important as at the entrance to Aughrim Oaks. At the corner site adjacent to the church on the main street the use of stone posts for the wire fence is interesting. Several details were noted where stone featured significantly. The developments at the Market House are well under way and this will be a great asset as it occupies such a prominent position in the town. There is a very good standard of premises presentation throughout the town with buildings very well cared for, painted and kept in good repair. The corner opposite the market house will, hopefully, attain a similar standard with time. The Mill will hopefully become an interesting place in the future. The Catholic church and surrounds make a very good feature and the Church of Ireland is a beautiful building which is particularly well lighted at night, as seen on many occasions while passing through.

## **LANDSCAPING**

There are many fine landscaping features in and around Aughrim. The entire area around the bridges gives a lovely vista on entering the town from the Rathdrum side. The planting of gardens, which plays such a significant part in the overall landscape, is of a very high standard and great pride is obviously taken in individual gardens. The approach to the junction for Woodenbridge and Carnew when leaving the town behind is attractive, with the plantings appearing over the wall on the left in the area of St. Martins Drive. Also in the area of St. Martins Drive the water features and plantings are very well carried out and make an otherwise uninteresting place into quite a feature. Anne's launderette with its container plantings adds a nice touch. Landscaping along roadsides is very significant and the use of trees shrubs and climbing plants has helped the road frontage at the GAA grounds greatly over the years. The formula of good quality grass, trees and stone walls has proved itself very well in Aughrim. The thorn hedge along the roadside is a lovely choice on the Carnew Road as is the impressive roadside tree project.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The river offers great potential as a source of wild life interest. Opening walkways and allowing for observation is a key factor in this regard. The development of the riverside area as a wild life sanctuary is a good idea and the intended extra riverside walks will be welcome. The angling facility is a lovely idea. Projects designed to avail of the wealth of wildlife interest would be very welcome.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

There is a very high standard of litter control present. Some litter was noted, though little and constant vigilance and determination is needed to keep litter to a minimum.

## **TIDINESS**

There is an extremely tidy atmosphere within the town and so many details are taken care of indicating the level of care and attention to tidiness. A good example being the orderly arrangement of the recycle bins in a very pleasant setting.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

There is an interesting combination of old and new housing. The on-street houses are very well cared for; many set nicely in off the street with good planting boundaries to the roadsides. Obviously people are taking very good care of their properties and this is also extended to the gardens. Both the houses and the landscaped surrounds in new developments such as the Aughrim Holiday Village are meticulously cared for. The new developments at Aughrim Oaks and Rathmore Park hopefully will be finished off to the standards of Aughrim. The Millwood Estate will need a tasteful entrance in keeping with the surrounds and hopefully the adjacent closed petrol station will be remedied.

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

All approach roads are well treated. The importance of retaining the natural roadside vegetation is appreciated. The entry to the town is attractive. The road out by the GAA grounds has been given much attention over the years and the results are now showing very well. The passage around and behind the Market House is interesting and there has been much cleaning over the years. The wall plants add to the character of the area.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Aughrim is a very well cared for town with a tremendous amount of effort over the years now coming to fruition. The work of planting, cleaning and attention to detail makes Aughrim a very pleasant place to visit.

## **SECOND ADJUDICATION (03/08/02)**

Some magnificent gardens were noted on the Rathdrum approach although a few papers had been scattered along the roadsides. The pretty and well-maintained landscaped spaces along this road, including a wildlife garden, were also admired. The Catholic Church grounds looked magnificent, with attractive planting to the wall opposite. The Captain's Table appeared to be empty. Hopefully it will be restored to life in the not to distant future. A number of minor issues were noted on the day. One was signage. Directional signs at the crossroads in the main part of the village were quite grubby. The gates to the community field were quite rusty. Perhaps a future project might be to create a more significant entrance area at this location. Some staining was evident to the façade of the Thrift Shop due to a leaking gutter. The magnificent estate cottages adjacent to the Church of Ireland were greatly admired. Aughrim is an attractive village, which has progressed strongly in the competition over the last number of years.