

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 19-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	--
The Built Environment	40	27	--
Landscaping	40	26	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	--
Litter Control	40	28	--
Tidiness	20	15	--
Residential Areas	30	20	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	--
General Impression	10	6	--
TOTAL MARK	300	188	--

Avoca, County Wicklow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENT APPROACH

An overall plan for future developments is needed in Avoca which takes into account the pressure of tourists and the improvement and sustainability of the village. It would be wise to set out the priorities for future years and to set targets that can be achieved. The available resources, the small number of committee members and the possible help and cooperation that could be gained from public bodies and commercial sponsorship should all be considered in deciding plans.. The natural setting of the village is very attractive which provides for the potential of further enhancement without the need to use detracting artificial materials.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

There are many well-presented buildings. Painting of the "Old Hall" is in progress and this will add to the standard of presentation of the street when finished. The Avoca Handweavers' premises looks well without being over ornamented. The church, school and bridge are important features within the town due to their prominence and the Old Courthouse gives a pleasant style to the street.

LANDSCAPING

The small park is carefully tended, although the water feature seems to have been damaged and this provides an excellent viewing point for the river. The conifers growing in the wall at the health centre continue to survive despite their restricted space. Across the road from this there are dead trees which have been cut back and will never resurrect, so removal of these would be helpful. The Garda station grounds are in need of attention. The landscaping at the Avoca Handweavers shop contributes well. The pleasant ferns and foxgloves by the river give an natural effect and the well kept lawns and picnic tables are attractive. Individual houses and gardens add to the landscape of the village and care by individuals is of the utmost importance in presenting a pleasant picture in the village grounds.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The problem due to contaminates in the river from the mines is understood. The development of interest in wild life among school children could present an interesting project in which plants and animals of the area could be studied and appreciation heightened.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control is always difficult in areas where there are large numbers of visitors. The little park had some litter and

the vacant site beside the Eircom building was very dirty. The street was clean and the footpaths gave a very clean and cared for appearance.

TIDINESS

There appears to be an improvement in this category since last year. Care is needed to avoid too many signs being placed outside shops so as to have regard for the nature of the surrounding countryside.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There are many individual houses which are very well cared for. Some streetside houses contribute well to the streetscape. Open spaces at Woodview park and Marion terrace and surrounding areas need to be kept at a high standard.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The main street is in good condition with good quality footpaths. The carpark at the church is very well laid out and kept well. The bridge area is attractive and forms a good frame to the village.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Avoca is a very interesting village with both a historical aspect and a current television familiarity. This encourages visitors and it is important that the standards of the original village are not compromised in favour of the recent tourist interest.