

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Arvagh** Ref: **49**
County: **Cavan** Mark: **214**
Category: **B** Date(s): **28/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	34
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	17
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	10
Residential Areas	40	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	214

Overall Development Approach:

The membership of the committee as stated 22-25 is very encouraging in a town of this size and shows a very good commitment to development in the town. The community spirit that can be generated with such a committee will help greatly with projects. Indeed there is good evidence of work done in the town and progress is good. The map was very detailed and most helpful at adjudication time and thank you for that. The information in the entry form was also helping in gaining a picture of the sort of objectives in the town. A three to five year plan would be most helpful at this stage. This plan would embody all the priorities that the committee would bring together from communicating with the various sectors of the community. The work could then be charted out over the coming years and each year this would act as a check list for progress.

The Built Environment:

There are many fine buildings in the town and these lend good character. The Church of Ireland Church is nicely tucked away among very green surrounds and appears very well. The Catholic Church is also attractive and forms a dominant position in the town. The Market House looks very well and we note that you have submitted this for a special award. The front area of the market house is well presented and adds to the overall appearance. The Garda station appears well although there is a metal roofed building opposite that does not do justice to the situation. The health centre and St Patrick's hall were noted.

The many street side buildings both residential and businesses are well painted and the décor is attractive making very attractive streetscape with very few exceptions. Colour schemes look very well. In last years report mention was made of some derelict and untidy buildings – these continue to be a problem for example the semi derelict premises along the street opposite the Market House and the garage area buildings opposite the recycle centre. Such buildings always prove difficult to deal with but by persistence and determination success will be achieved.

Landscaping:

Several good landscaping features have been established around the town and the Fairgreen area Killashandra road and health centre were noted. The area of grass surrounding the playground is very well kept and appears very well. This is a lovely setting for a play area and is so easily accessible and open. Church grounds always offer great opportunity for large trees and this is the case in Arvagh. The many containerised plantings through the town give a great sparkle of summer colour and add greatly to the scene – especially those at the Market House.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The walkway - Castlepoles offers good opportunity for wildlife appreciation. In fact the entire lakeside is a marvelous natural feature and there could be many projects developed to encourage the awareness of and appreciation of these wildlife and natural resources. Cooperation with local schools can be helpful in this regard as young people would develop an interest and this is important so that local knowledge can be handed down through the generations.

Litter Control:

Your work of continually monitoring litter and paying special attention to Monday mornings appears to be working well. Also the involvement of youth in this area is very important so that good awareness will be developed. The standard of litter care in the streets is very good with only small amounts of litter noted. Some litter was noted along the shore line on entering at the playground. Happily the litter as mentioned in last years report did not seem to figure seriously this year – well done.

Waste Minimisation:

The encouragement to local business and schools to become aware of the need and the ways that recycling can be done is very worthwhile. This aspect of the competition is to do with avoidance of waste materials and recycling everything that can be recycled – this involves a fair amount of sorting of waste products and dealing with them independently. The bring back centre is well used but as stated is a little untidy and is not very attractive- at the same time it is nicely secluded as such a centre can never be expected to be a feature in itself.

Tidiness:

Overall there is a very good level of tidiness in the town. The neatly presented streets with a very tidy and clean appearance go a long way in this regard, The area by the recycle bins is somewhat untidy - this is partly due to the surrounding premises. The removal of overhead cables is an excellent idea, the lamps were noted. Some protruding signs on shops still remain and one wonders do they really serve a useful function.

Residential Areas:

The street side housing is very attractive and forms a considerable part of the town taking into account all the streets. Well painted and presented terraced houses always look well and give the streets character. Houses on the approach roads also appear well and these contribute well to the landscape aspect of the approach roads especially where the gardens are well cared for. The encouragement given to care for homes and gardens is a god idea. Perhaps this can be done by competition or arranging talks or fact sheets. Summer colour can be introduced with planted containers and this has been done to good avail in the town. A townhouse estate off the main street appears a little neglected even though these houses look very new. Tree planting in any available green space within or at the entrance to housing estates is to be encouraged as in time this will lend great identity to the estate.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Road surfaces are generally good with few exceptions where slight bumpiness was noticed. The treatment of the approach roads is well done and appears to be improved on last year reading from the report of 2005. Care is needed to avoid manicuring the natural aspect of the verges and hedgerows and at the same time to present a cared for approach – this can mean a careful balance has to be achieved.

General Impression:

Arvagh appears very well to the visitor and good efforts have been made with the town. The well maintained street buildings and the lake are the two strong points. The improvement in litter control is good and efforts at waste minimisation are well worthwhile. The overall plan could be a priority for next year and the continued efforts to deal with problem buildings.

