

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Arvagh** Ref: **49**
County: **Cavan** Mark: **219**
Category: **B** Date(s): **26/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	34
The Built Environment	50	35
Landscaping	50	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	17
Litter Control	50	31
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	10
Residential Areas	40	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	219

Overall Development Approach:

Many thanks for your completed application form and very clear map, both of which were very useful on Adjudication Day. It was suggested by last year's adjudicator that you should put together a work programme to clarify your plan of campaign. This document need only be a few pages long outlining your objectives and setting a time frame against achieving them. The comments contained in the reports you have received over the years of entering the competition would be a good starting point. You would appear to have a good working relationship with Cavan County Council, Leader and FAS. The committee seems to be a large one, which is good news! The fact that you have one member whose liases with schools is a very good idea. We look forward to work on the Fair Green area and were sorry to hear of your problem with vandalism. Hopefully this latter issue will be resolved in the not too distant future. Have you considered using CCTV cameras in the core locations?

The Built Environment:

The shops of the town generally looked fresh and well presented on the day - both along Main Street and the side streets. Of note were Brady's of Arvagh with its attractive stepped gable, Ronnie's, Daybreak, the Eagle Bar/Seerey's, Cookie's Café, Foster's Pharmacy, and Lynch's. The Breffni Arms Hotel also looked well. Brady's also have a smart modern premises opposite. In terms of public buildings, the Catholic Church looked well and has a lovely and unusual mosaic above its entrance. The gables to the school should be repainted before next year's competition, as should the Health Centre. The gates to the Church of Ireland National School will also need attention. Outbuildings should, in addition, be considered - some sheds at the Killeshandra end of the town were in need of painting.

Landscaping:

The area of the Market Square looked well with its floral tubs and neat appearance. The car park area of the

Church sported some trees which were coming along well, apart from one which had been removed (vandalised or damaged?) and this should be replaced. The GAA grounds was well presented. The lakeside area and playground were well maintained, although the barrier in this location needed a fresh coat of paint as it was rather flaky. The graveyard on the Killeshandra Road was well maintained. Patrick Murtagh's hanging baskets were admired. An attractive landscaped space was noted at the junction of the Cavan and Lough Gowna Roads in the vicinity of the Health Centre.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The adjudicator was disappointed to note that you had left this section of the application form blank! The town is full of wildlife habitats, given its wealth of mature trees and close proximity to the marvellous Lough Garty right on your doorstep! It was suggested last year that you involve local schoolchildren in this area of your work. Have you done so? Nearby Killeshandra have conducted a number of interesting projects in this category, including establishment of a link with Birdwatch Ireland, organising a Midnight Bat Walk and a Dawn Chorus event. Perhaps you could contact their committee and see how they managed these projects? You could also look at creating a wildlife garden – perhaps at the school?

Litter Control:

The standard in this category was good on the day, with little litter being evident. A few papers and cans were noted in the vicinity of the Catholic Church and National School. The Adopt a Road campaign is an interesting one.

Waste Minimisation:

Unfortunately the area around the bottle bank was quite weedy and cans and bottles were evident squeezed below the bins. The provision of a paper collection bin is a good idea. Your plans to become more informed regarding this aspect of the competition are admirable and we would suggest that you contact the Environmental Officer in Cavan County Council in regard to how you can improve your own work in this category and how you can make the local community - schools, residents and businesses more aware. Do the schools take part in the Green Flag Programme?

Tidiness:

The problems you have with derelict properties have been noted and are sympathised with. The only way of addressing this is by making contact with owners to gain permission to paint them up, so persistence is all that can be suggested. Other towns have looked at creating temporary demountable planted areas in front of them, where possible, in order to act as screening. A rough area beside the Volkswagen Garage looked unfortunate.

Residential Areas:

The standard in this category was somewhat inconsistent on the day. Although some houses and gardens were well maintained, some looked quite neglected in comparison. Boundary walls should also be considered when looking at overall presentation. Last year's adjudicator suggested a garden competition. Some centres have found this to work very successfully! A lovely garden filled with flowers was admired on the Cavan Road. The new Bruce Manor Estate was admired, although it was felt that additional landscaping would be a good idea in this location. New stone walling was being put onto boundary wall of a house on the Killeshandra Road. An interesting house was noted on main street with twisted Ionic columns either side of its front door.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The standard in this category was good. The Cavan Road was well maintained, despite roadworks taking place. The ditches, banks and trees make this a pleasant approach to the town. The banking at the Killeshandra approach was also admired. Some of the rear areas should be considered - not just main streets. Some of the paving was in a bad state of repair. Have you considered a campaign of tree planting along streets in the town centre and along approach roads?

General Impression:

Arvagh was a pleasure to visit on adjudication day. The local community shows a good level of care in its future. Do put together a work programme before next year.