

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Arvagh** Ref: **49**  
County: **Cavan** Mark: **221**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **05/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
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	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>221</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Arvagh is welcome to the National TidyTowns Competition in this its 50th Anniversary year. Thank you for your submission which included your three-year plan; we note you work with all sectors of the community and that you have appointed liaison person for the schools, this is an excellent initiative. You can log on to the TidyTowns website at [www.tidytowns.ie](http://www.tidytowns.ie) for useful information and resource material on participation in the TidyTowns Competition. The overall appearance of Arvagh is pleasant.

### **The Built Environment:**

The centre of the town is made up of a handsome stock of two-storey buildings most of which are well painted along the Main Street, however premises off the main street tend to be less well presented. Public buildings such as churches and schools look well and the Breffni Arms Hotel was particularly admired. Foster's Pharmacy is an attractive shopfront however posters in the window here detract from its good presentation. The same point can be made regarding the Post Office premises, the Health Board premises is in need of painting; while the number of plastic signs has been reduced in the last few years there are still a few dated beer signs and soft drinks signs which hopefully will also be removed.

### **Landscaping:**

Landscaping to the grounds of the Health Board is to a high standard and the tall trees behind the field boundary on the Gowna road are a handsome feature. A tree in the church car-park should be replaced and flower tubs are in need of attention; the flower bed and nameplates at the junction with the Killeshandra road were admired. Ongoing work at the Fair Green is acknowledged. The boat slip and adjoining children's playground is a fine amenity however the pedestrian handrail to the playground needs be repainted. Landscaping is suggested for the curtilage area of Dobson's and A C Auto Spares , although these are 1km

from the town they are very close to town road signs and so are associated with Arvagh.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

Well done to 5th and 6th classes of the National School for their involvement in bird-watching and feeding. We note the plan to create a nature garden by 2009 in the school grounds and look forward to adjudicating this in the future. Flower tubs at the entrance are an attractive feature also. A wildfowl survey of the lake might be considered and results published on an attractive all-weather vandal-proof interpretive panel at the boat slip and at various points within the town perhaps the Market Square also.

### **Litter Control:**

Litter control was quite good around the town however sporadic outbreaks were noted on the Main Street and in particular around the litter bin near the National School, this didn't seem to come from the bin as it was not overflowing. Well done to those residents who have taken responsibility for their own areas and to the schools for their involvement in litter picking patrols. Picked litter should be segregated for recycling, the importance of this cannot be overstated

### **Waste Minimisation:**

The environs of the recycling point are an eyesore however allowances have been made for the fact that development work here seems to be in progress so hopefully the situation will be rectified within the short-term future. A few bags were left at the bottle banks which is a pity. the adjudicator wonders if this is a good site for the recycling point as it is close to a bend in the road? Well done on approaching businesses to help with clean-ups of approach roads and contacts with the county council for help with waste minimisation. We wish the school every success in their work for participation in the Green Schools Programme.

### **Tidiness:**

We note the intention to upgrade derelict buildings and paint the barrier by 2009. Undeveloped sites/buildings are a feature of the Carrigallen /Longford approach road and some dereliction on the road looking up to the Market Square is problematic. The garage located across from the entrance to the recycling point looks poor. The plan to contain weed growth is acknowledged

### **Residential Areas:**

Well done on the 'Best-Kept Garden and the Best Window-Box display initiatives under this heading. Infill development on the Carrigallen road looked well and new estates look promising. Many boundary walls beyond the Church of Ireland premises could be upgraded and work-in-progress was noted on new residential estates. The challenge to the committee now will be to welcome new residents to the life of the community and into the Tidy Towns movement in particular and to encourage the formation of new Residents Associations to look after developments/green areas within their own estates.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Overhead service cables are an unattractive feature of the town centre however street furniture looks quite nice, the nameplate seemed to be missing from the Longford approach road. Grass banks into the town from the Killeshandra road junction are attractively maintained and backed by small trees. Your participation in the 'Adopt a Road' programme is noted. A speed limit sign on the Cavan Road needs to be realigned. We note work-in-progress on paving and resurfacing at Pound Street and its designation for one-way traffic.

### **General Impression:**

The overall appearance of Arvagh aesthetically pleasing and the village enjoys an excellent lakeshore location with all the amenities that this has to offer. It is good to note that the school liaison person has strong sense of community and volunteerism hopefully the committee will be successful in spreading this to the community at large.