

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Arklow** Ref: **264**  
County: **Wicklow** Mark: **256**  
Category: **F** Date(s): **07/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	41
The Built Environment	50	31
Landscaping	50	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	27
Litter Control	50	35
Waste Minimisation	20	9
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>256</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Arklow is welcomed to the Tidy Towns Competition 2008. Thank you for your completed entry form, scrap book, three year plan and town map. Your committee of ten has a substantial job given the size of Arklow and you are commended for your dedication and many meetings. Undoubtedly you have a strong network of supporting agencies in Arklow Town Council, An Taisce, Sheldon Abbey Special Needs and Ballyraine Rural Enterprise. Your ongoing work with the schools too has been noted. Do you recruit for new members annually? Is there co-operation with Residence Associations? The scrap book provided displays many newspaper articles featuring your groups activities so well done!

### **The Built Environment:**

The Church on the Woodenbridge road looked marvellous as the adjudicator passed. Hanging baskets adorned the Fire Station. Arklow boxing Club was reasonably neat in appearance but a fresh coat of paint is advisable before next years competition. The School on the Coolgreany road looked well. Bemis Packaging Ireland was lauded for its fresh appearance and neat shrubbery. Apple Green was slick in appearance and sported tasteful shrubs too. The murals at St. Mary's School were admired. The Garda Station, Hudsons Funeral Home and AIB all looked particularly crisp. Many of the pubs along the Main St were well painted and displayed window boxes or hanging baskets including Jay K's, Sally O'Briens, Murphy's and Gin Mill. It is a pity however to see the 19 Arches in its current state. Dunnes Stores was commended for its fresh, clean paintwork. The Bridgewater Centre is a marvellous addition to Arklow.

### **Landscaping:**

Your ongoing maintenance work at Vale Road is commended. The small landscaped area at the Fire Station is refreshing and will perhaps inspire some of their neighbours! Trees and shrubs were admired at the green in Fernhill but it was unfortunate that the green had become a meadow. Planting at the entrance to Rahan

Court added interest and your continued work at the Knockmore roundabout is lauded. The seated area off the Main Street is a wonderful oasis and the railing was being painted as the adjudicator walked past. Impressive rows of hanging baskets were noted at the bridge. The planted boat at the swimming pool is delightful and indeed, the trees lining Seaview Avenue had a softening effect. Ongoing work at the Credit Union and Ambulance base was also noted.

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

The planting of Maarm grass on the south beach should have a stabilising effect on the sand and this is commended. Is coastal erosion a problem in Arklow? You are commended too for the planting of a wildflower bed. Please ensure to provide information with next years submission as to the results of the reed management project.

#### **Litter Control:**

The level of litter control was quite good overall in Arklow on the day of adjudication. Some litter was evident in the park off the Main St. and this is unfortunate. Scattering of litter were also noted at Glendale and a broken bin here should be replaced before next years competition if possible. The Wicklow County Council recycling Centre whilst neat in appearance was strewn with litter in the forecourt area.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

The Green Flag was flying high at Carysfort NS and the pupils and teachers are commended for their contribution to waste minimisation. Similarly the Green Flag was noted at St. Joseph's NS - well done to the other schools in Arklow that have achieved this status too! The bring bank was noted at P.Boland Ltd. Thank you for the inclusion of the Arklow Town Council Waste Management Plan 2007 and for the inventory of recycling centres and map. The Wicklow County Council Recycling facility mentioned earlier was also noted.

#### **Tidiness:**

You are lauded for your ongoing campaign in association with the Town Council to remove all unsightly and unnecessary signs. It is good to note also that cables are being put underground. The large sign at the entrance to Croghan Industrial Estate is in a poor state of repair and should be repaired or replaced. A yard with rusted railing had an untidy appearance on Yellow Lane. As with most large towns dereliction is a problem and Arklow is no different. A derelict site beside the sign for Abbeyville is an eyesore. There is a considerable amount of graffiti at the swimming pool which is unfortunate.

#### **Residential Areas:**

Fernhill looked well overall although property owners are reminded here and elsewhere that the presentation of gable and boundary walls also contributes to the overall impression. The new development at Meadowville is fresh in appearance with dashed walls providing a marvellous backdrop to a tasteful shrubbery and well maintained lawn. Avalon too was admired. The terraced row on Yellow Lane looked well as did St. Patricks Terrace and The Pines. Summerfield was also admired for its presentation, however please ensure that kerbside weeds are removed.

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

The Woodenbridge approach as neat and tidy in appearance with a clean road surface. The Coolgreany Road too looked well. Kerbside weeds at Glendale should be removed as they detract from the overall appearance of the area. Large tracts of overgrown grass verges throughout the Industrial Estate are disappointing. The cycle path, roundabout and side areas prepared for planting on the Gorey road were neat and tidy. The parking area at Aras Lorcaín was admired for its clear markings and good surface - this too was noted at the car park and civic amenity. The road surface on the Dublin Road was a little uneven in places.

#### **General Impression:**

It was a pleasure to adjudicate Arklow. Your small committee has a large area to manage and you are doing trojan work. Congratulations!