

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Aughrim** Ref: **257**
County: **Wicklow** Mark: **302**
Category: **C** Date(s): **17/06/2009**
22/07/2009

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	46
The Built Environment	50	39
Landscaping	50	40
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	30
Litter Control	50	36
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	25
Residential Areas	40	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	37
General Impression	10	9
TOTAL MARK	400	302

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to the Tidy Towns competition 2009. Thank you for your application and 3-year plan. Aughrim shows a well organised approach, with involvement from much of the community and good integration with partners. The village is looking terrific and it was a pleasure for this adjudicator to visit.

The Built Environment:

Buildings are presented to the highest standard. The new extension to the Pavillion looks great and will be of valuable amenity to the community. Nestled in the park with lake, and angling for all, and bandstand it is a lovely setting. The Garda Station should get a freshening up for next years' competition. The Green Bean, Pescegrande, Post office shop, Stone Cutter all deserve a mention. The lanterns at Pescegrande were particularly admired and much care must go in to keeping these clean. It was also noticed that they hold energy efficient lightbulbs, which of course helps reduce the carbon footprint.

Landscaping:

The picnic area by Tinnakilly Bridge is really well done and the river can be admired from this peaceful location. The fact that benches are made from recycled material carries through the environmentally friendly ethos. Beech hedging mature trees were admired on Roddenagh Hill. Landscaping is to a very high standard throughout the village.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

It was great to read that the extension to the Pavillion included provisions for encouraging bat nesting, as it is an ideal location. It was interesting to read that the location by water, height and exposure levels to sunlight

were taken into account for bats.

The Sean Linehan Walk is a great development. There should be continuation of the colour coded routes while on the trail so walkers know where to go. They are included on the main map at the start, and then no further coloured guidance provided. Otherwise a charming, well thought out route. Very helpful to have the times for various routes given at the start, along with pictures of flora and fauna to look out for.

Litter Control:

There was no litter on the day of visit. The area was very clean, including picnic areas and back streets. The work of Fas workers and volunteer litter pickers is paying off, as is the weekly use of the green machine for leaves and chippings which are otherwise difficult to lift. The local schools involvement in litter management is also worthy of mention as the successful results of partnership working are evident here. Keep up the good work!

Waste Minimisation:

The plans to extend the 'New to you' shop are very exciting. Working with the schools as part of the Green-Schools programme is the best way to approach waste minimisation as a community, and your endeavours to register as a Green Community with An Taisce are encouraged. Reducing waste and energy use is all part of having a sustainable community. Well done.

Tidiness:

No graffiti noticed, or any broken street furniture. All was in good nick and well maintained.

Residential Areas:

Privates houses and residential areas are presented to a high standard. St Martins drive is beautifully maintained. Lots of work is being done, including tree planting at Aughrim Oaks, and much work done by the residents of Riverfield Estate

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

All approaches are excellent. The surfaces at Tinnakilly and Rodenagh Hill are very good. The trees planted on Hacketstown approach were admired.

General Impression:

Superb integration of community, well presented, beautiful town with obvious care and love given to it.

Second Round Adjudication:

I note the members of your committee have increased by 10 this year and this is positive. There is great commitment shown when so many people are prepared to give up some of their spare time to attend committee meetings and help out with other duties. It is good to find that you are getting support from the newly formed Aughrim Business Association. You are communicating well with the local people and this is very important to maintain support and interest in your plans and activities.

The public park landscaped around the lake is a beautiful well kept facility, and I admired the National Disabled Angling facility there. It is great to see that there are fish in this lake and this tells us straight away that these waters are not polluted. The bandstand is very nice and the workmanship on its construction is of a high quality. The bowling green is a good amenity and it was pleasing to see lots of adults enjoying playing and watching bowling sessions. I got a nice introduction to the wildlife when a group of ducks swam along in the lake in formation. The clock tower and the new extension further improve this facility and we look forward to the completion of the work, and it is interesting to find that you have incorporated a bat roosting area at the clock tower. The park is adorned with mature trees and shrubs surrounded by neatly trimmed lawns. While I was in the car park at the town end a gentleman tried to open one of the steel doors to read the contents of the notice board, in the small roofed feature with the heading Angling for all, when to his great surprise the steel door crashed to the ground, and he was lucky not to seriously damage his foot. I saw that the wrought iron gates and railing were recently painted and now look very well.

John the Evangelist Church of Ireland is a most attractive cut stone building with a great stone boundary wall. The Sacred Heart Church Aughrim (1890) is also a wonderful stone building with attractive stone walls and was well landscaped. The ICA building, which appears to have been an old school, is a fine traditional building. The school is maintained in spectacular condition, and I wonder are they involved in the green flag programmes?

The Tinnakilly bridge area is very well developed with spectacular landscaping and appropriate garden

furniture, and I admired the boat with the fine array of flowers. The Sean Linehan walk is a great amenity, now I did not travel the four kilometres, but I enjoyed a pleasant stroll along by the side of the river. The notice board at the entrance to the walk pays tribute to Sean Linehan and there is good details of the fauna and flora of the area. I noticed some ivy growing on a lovely stone wall near the Tinnakilly bridge and perhaps this could be removed before it starts to damage the wall.

I enjoyed the small amenity area across from Market Square House, and the level of landscaping here was excellent. I loved the two traditional water pumps.

All around Aughrim the landscaping is supreme and you are complimented for this performance.

The business houses are well presented, and there are good carparking facilities around the town that permits the traffic to flow in a fairly orderly way.

Aughrim is a great place to visit and better again it is a great place to live in with fine leisure facilities. Could I respectfully suggest that a sketched map of the town could be better than the one presented.

I spent a most enjoyable time in Aughrim and look forward to going back there again