

Tidy Towns Competition 2010

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Aughrim** Ref: **257**
County: **Wicklow** Mark: **302**
Category: **C** Date(s): **06/07/2010**
29/07/2010

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009	Mark Awarded 2010
Overall Development Approach	50	46	45
The Built Environment	50	39	39
Landscaping	50	40	40
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	30	30
Litter Control	50	36	37
Waste Minimisation	20	10	10
Tidiness	30	25	24
Residential Areas	40	30	31
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	37	37
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	400	302	302

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the completed entry form together with the precise and concise three year programme. The addition of a map is requested next year please. Aughrim is a recent national winner and it continues to display many of the attributes that secured for it this ultimate accolade. The overall impression one gets is of a town determined to continue to present itself in the best possible light utilising nature's gifts together with a determined, organised present day committee. It was a real joy to spend some time and to admire and applaud your efforts. The school was neatly painted with window boxes and ground planting. The 1890 Church reflected well the attention it is receiving.

The Built Environment:

The delightful Tinakilly Bridge caught the eye. The Monument, Health Centre, Post Office and Bakery each individually and certainly collectively projected a fine image. O' Toole's traditional pub was very well presented while the new design of the Pharmacy was admired. The premises of Des Rhatigan and Hick, manufacturer of hand crafted kitchens was presented in an exemplary fashion while the sizable Skoda cars garage featured excellent planting to the foreground and even within the garage itself. A model for many similar undertakings to emulate. The Woodfad Timber Ltd. was flying three flags with is applauded but all three were somewhat ragged and need to be replaced.

Landscaping:

Your wonderful park with lake angling available to all is a superb facility. The boulders at the entrance, the grass neatly cut and the entire area, devoid of litter, makes a splendid impression. Work in progress is continuing at the entrance to the park. The picnic area and waterfall at Tinakilly Bridge is a delight. The flowerboxes on the bridge would benefit from more intensive planting. The Sean Linehan Walk is a very fine

facility and most inviting, complements to Coillte for the manner in which it is presented. The Sports Grounds were busy while the entrance to Van Derwel Ltd, Cappagh Nurseries and Garden Centre was a delight flying the European, Dutch and Irish flags.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The inclusion of a Bat Sanctuary in the Clock Tower at the Pavilion is an experiment which will be watched with interest. Bats are notorious as they "have minds of their own" and they have been known to favour many different locations. The introduction of the formally wild ducklings will bring an added and welcome dimension to the lake. The hand reared ducklings and how well they settle will be watched with interest.

Litter Control:

Generally speaking the level of litter experienced in Aughrim was very low. A few items on the Carnew Road even less on the road to Rathdrum. We welcomed the signs at Lawless's Hotel and elsewhere "Please Help Keep Aughrim Tidy". You list the extensive range of systems in place to speedily remove litter; FAS workers on a daily bases, regular groups of volunteers in the evenings and also at weekends. Have you given thought to the source(s) of this litter and can anything be put in place to prevent its occurrence. Discarding litter is a selfish habit calling for both education and at times it may be necessary to resort to stronger action to eradicate it. Certainly in other centres well publicised prosecutions have had a most beneficial effect.

Waste Minimisation:

The excellent in concept and execution "New to You" Gift Shop is also generating much needed funds for your organisation. Reusing natural slates on the roof of the pavilion is an ideal example of what can be achieved, recycling railway sleepers, the cast iron pillars at the band stand and the materials used to create the seating around the splendid bowling green makes it very clear that you have taken the reduce, reuse and recycle concepts very much to heart. The school securing its fifth Green Flag is a commendable achievement while the WTSOW (Walk to School on Wednesdays) is a beneficial development on several different levels.

Tidiness:

The overall impression of Aughrim is of a neat, orderly and well managed town. The main streets were well swept and presented in a most welcoming manner. On the approach roads some of the commercial signs were obscured and a number needed simply to be washed. An audit of these signs to insure that all are still required could well lead to a reduction in their total numbers.

Residential Areas:

The Paddock's, a newly developed area is maturing well. There were number of very excellent gardens notable on the left hand side at the commencement. St. Martin's Drive is a very fitting award winner and continues to be very well maintained. On the basis of their presentation during our visit Riverfield Estate can not have been far behind them. The community garden here with vigorously growing vegetables and fruit is a commendable initiative. Congratulations to the residences of both areas for their success.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Rathdrum approach road featured excellent planting on both sides. The large stone was eye catching while the verges were well cut back for quite a distance before the town. Road signs generally were well presented and their visibility not compromised by vegetation. Minor spoil was observed outside the curbs along the Carnew Road. The road surfaces were somewhat below par.

General Impression:

Aughrim has an enviable record and reputation in the TidyTowns programme. It is a pleasure to note the delightful manner in which the various elements which make up the town have come together and pursued this common purpose. While nature and history have endowed your town with considerable attributes these are being developed, presented and enhanced by a caring and thoughtful present day generation. To everyone, individual, agencies and authorities associated with this year's entry our best thanks and applause.

Second Round Adjudication:

It was a delight to visit Aughrim for the very first time and particularly since you are a recent overall winner. It is wonderful to read about the extensive community support that you enjoy and particularly the impressive size of your committee. Given the high standard you have achieved it would be great to see a comprehensive approach to wildlife through a survey and action plan. The habitats in and around the village are no doubt rich in species and it would be good for you to highlight this as part of your activities. Well done to the school on

the award of its 5th Green Flag! To build on this you should work with them to use what they have learnt to reduce the environmental impact of the town. On the day of second adjudication Aughrim looked extremely well and the wire-free skyline, well maintained roads and paths and beautifully presented buildings all contribute to the high level of presentation. Landscaping is beautiful and in particular the roses outside the Credit Union are a lovely display. The old forge is a great heritage feature while the nearby interpretive display is clean, clear and interesting. Litter control generally was very good but some items were noted near, and in, the river. Giant rhubarb along the river is a threat to biodiversity and should be controlled. The angling centre is a fantastic amenity and is clearly well-used. Overall Aughrim looks great but this adjudicator felt that the standard of the approach has slipped somewhat from that worth of an overall winner.