

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **WEXFORD**
County : **WEXFORD**
Category : **F**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 08-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15
Landscaping	40	25
The Built Environment	40	26
Litter Control	40	25
Tidiness	20	9
Residential Areas	30	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	300	186

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

All Tidy Towns entrants are now being encouraged to produce a simple Work Programme or Plan which will guide their Tidy Towns activities. The Plan should cover a 3 to 5 year period and set out clearly your objectives for each year covered. It is important to have an evenness in the presentation of the Plan. Do involve the schools, housing estates, factories and business premises both in planning and carrying out the work. It is not satisfactory that one organisation has to do all the work. What about devising a Tidy Towns slogan for Wexford ? It would help the Community to focus on the importance of contributing to making Wexford a beautiful place and maintaining same. Delighted to see you will liaise with the agencies who will have valuable advice to give you.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

You have a wonderful Heritage Park which is outside the town and is a magnificent amenity for locals and visitors. In the Wexford urban area you have some possibilities to develop wildlife habitats. Tidy Towns Committees have an important role to play in protecting and increasing the wildlife value of the Community. It must be included in your plans and development work. Do seek the advice of a local environmental expert who will provide you with the specialist information you require. You have possibilities for wildlife in the bay area off the quays and across in Ferrybank.

LANDSCAPING

Your tree planting throughout the area is now achieving a lovely result and maturing nicely. The landscaping on all the approach roads is excellent. St Peter's Square had some delightful planting done around the Fountain. The Band Stand was in excellent condition. Open space near the Municipal Building has been landscaped beautifully. A lovely grove of trees has been planted in Ferrybank Swimming Pool/Caravan & Camping Complex - but do tidy around the base of the trees. Some nice shrub planting at the entrance but do give attention to weeds.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Talbot Hotel and car park were presented very well. The car park across the road from the Hotel is also presented very well. The Municipal Buildings and its grounds were maintained beautifully. The County Hall is also an impressive building and well maintained. The West Gate Tower visitor attraction is again very impressive and the historic aspect has been very well presented. It was great to see that there are plans to make Selskar Abbey grounds more user friendly. The Hospital has been completed to a high standard. The Racecourse buildings from the main road have been renewed and they look well. The twin Churches are both maintained and presented to a high standard. The Dun Mhuire Hall could do with being redecorated. The YMCA which is a lovely building of character needs painting to door and windows. Most business properties in town centre look very well. New shop fronts are appearing all the time which is to be commended. Do encourage any shops, etc. who have plastic signage to replace it with an appropriate material. The Quay is quite well presented with the new commercial development on Crescent Quay looking particularly attractive. I would suggest more use of flowers on all business premises - window boxes, hanging baskets and planters - it gives a stunning effect to the built environment.

LITTER CONTROL

Control was quite good with a large area to keep litter-free. Litter is now a big issue countrywide and it must be tackled vigorously by all the Community. There were small amounts in South Main Street and along the Quays. Some amounts were evident in St Peter's Square, Railway Street, outside Rowe Street Church, and off Redmond Place on the Enniscorthy Road. Litter control is everyone's business and most certainly should not be the sole responsibility of the Local Authority to sweep and collect it.

TIDINESS

Weed control at kerbs was quite good. More attention is needed to grass growing around signs and trees. Some signs need to be cleaned and painted. Also weeds and grass need to be controlled at some buildings throughout the town.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Many housing estates in the Wexford town area are doing very well in presenting their properties in an excellent way. Just to mention a few - Pinewood - very neat and clean. The sign was a nice one. Bishopswater - again well presented with open spaces tidy - some lovely planting evident there. Bishops Park - very good with shrubs and plants maturing nicely. St Aidan's Crescent - not very well kept - untidy around the trees. Some outstanding individual houses evident in housing developments and on their own sites. Do encourage more use of flowers and shrubs. It will add colour and can disguise dullness.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach road from Rosslare was maintained to a high standard with all trees maturing nicely. The entire Ring road was tidy and cut. The planting on the roundabout was just stunning - a sheer delight - well done. The New Line road is improving and when development work is completed it should look well. The narrow lanes in Wexford have great potential - perhaps some plan could be drawn up to see how best they can be presented. The paving on North Street and the tarmac on Mary's Lane was noted. The car parks were well kept but had some spots of litter. I note your comments regarding the Drainage Scheme causing difficulties for you regarding the surface on various streets, etc. It was great to see that provision is being made in the car parks for reserved disabled drivers spaces.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Despite the on-going works with the Drainage Scheme you have managed to present the town quite well for this new-look Competition. You have a large area to develop at present with an active Tidy Towns Committee to help with the huge workload associated with keeping a town tidy.

SECOND ADJUDICATION

As emphasised by the first adjudicator, litter was a real problem on the first adjudication day, and the same was the unfortunate case on the second. There was considerable litter on the grassed space next to the Old Town Hall and in the shrubbery opposite. In inter-street, St Aidan's Crescent, and on Henrietta Street bins were overflowing. Some local authority estates - among them Bishop's Water, Kennedy Park, Davitt Road South, were tidy, with planting to a standard not often seen in council schemes elsewhere, but there was a lack of consistency and some local authority estates were lighter-strewn, had very poor paving, and rough boundaries. The new paving with granite and limestone dressings, new lighting standards, and the removal of wirescapes in North Main Street, is most impressive and makes an enormous difference to this prominent location; it is assumed that the scheme will be continued as funds become available. It is also good to be reminded of the numerous smart new business premises at various locations throughout the town. It was disappointing to find no progress on the conspicuously derelict site near the Talbot Hotel; when the new marina is built, this rather run-down neighbourhood may attract investment; and when the drainage scheme is completed there should be a general improvement in the hinterland streets. (It was not clear what 'grounds made more visitor-friendly' at Selskar means in the answers to the questionnaire.