

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **BRAY**  
County : **WICKLOW**  
Category : **F**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 16-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16
Landscaping	40	24
The Built Environment	40	26
Litter Control	40	28
Tidiness	20	12
Residential Areas	30	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>192</b>

## Adjudicator's Comments

### OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Welcome to the new format of the 1996 Tidy Towns Competition. The adjudicators would like to commend the excellent and very professional approach that the Beautiful Bray Association have made in working with local commercial and residential interests in improving the town and environs of Bray. Thank you for the very detailed information and your map highlighting improvements was also very helpful. It is obvious that a lot of activity is taking place. You have some very good ideas, for example, your sponsorship options of adopt a spot is very good as are your Garden Clinics - this is a nice touch in getting the residents of the town to get involved. It is also good to see the recycling efforts taking place and the commitment of the UDC is ongoing in the tackling of litter - this shows that you are taking a very serious approach to this competition and one which the adjudicators have tried to award throughout various sections.

### WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

There is potential for increased nature conservation throughout the town and environs of Bray. A good starting point would be to identify the wildlife habitats in your catchment areas and see what species of animals, fish, plants etc. these attract. Why not get involved with your local environmental experts and groups who could advise you and provide you with the specialist information you require. Bray has a number of unique features that form important habitats for wildlife, including, the River Dargle, the coast line itself, together with Bray Head. Continued tree planting would be helpful in years to come and it was nice to see an information display on wildlife in the scenic car park area. The cliff walk looked relatively neat and tidy. Again, more information on this would be beneficial. It was nice to see swans and ducks on the River Dargle near the harbour.

### LANDSCAPING

Overall, there is an excellent effort being made in the maintenance of open spaces throughout Bray, particularly in light of the large area that needs to be looked after. The adjudicators would like to commend the sea front, which was a very good presentation with stalls on the sea front freshly painted - the grassed area was very well maintained. New cobble locking was noted in the car park - the area was neat and tidy, even in light of the fact that the sea front and promenade area was extremely busy on day of adjudication with visitors. Some very nice planting was also noted in several areas, e.g. at the end of Strand Road. The riverside area on the Upper Dargle Road is also a nice amenity area - could this area perhaps be enhanced? Outside the Nurseries, some weeds were noted at the shrubbery. Also, try to kerb where the grass meets the road. The park on Herbert Road (Peoples Park) was also very well presented at time of adjudication. Other nice landscaped areas were also noted, for example, on the Vevay Road. Overall, a good performance in this section and well done.

### THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Overall, there are some magnificent premises throughout Bray and the majority of commercial premises, particularly on the main street are relatively well presented. There are opportunities for further improvement - perhaps the UDC might encourage commercial owners to consider improving their shopfronts. Overall, public buildings throughout the town are well presented. There are many fine buildings of which the centrepiece must be the Town Hall, which was magnificent. St Cronans and its grounds were very well presented. The Church of Ireland is a magnificent building and its grounds are well maintained. The Court House and Heritage Centre are nicely presented. Most of the petrol stations/service stations were also well presented and the majority have paid good attention to their forecourt areas, including landscaped areas. It is also nice to see ivy growing on the wall at the Castle Garage and the presence of herbs at the Statoil Station on the Vevay Road. It was also nice to see cobble locking and street improvements on the Quinnsboro Road, including new seating near the Boulevard area. There are several fine premises throughout the town to which the commercial sector have made an effort in their presentation. Some nice premises noted on day of adjudication included

Hollands; First National; DuBray Books; Hilton Pharmacy; ODriscolls; Molloy's; Allens; ACC Bank; Irish Permanent; Bray Curtains and Furnishings; Fidelmas Florists; the new shop front was noted at Centra; the majority of industrial premises on the Boghall Road were well presented; Kincaids/Dusty Millers was well presented and outside Bray Bowl was litter free. Some premises that might be encouraged to improve their presentation include Everest Cycles; Branagans could be improved, as could the area to the left, which was quite untidy; the adjudicators feel that perhaps the Superquinn Shopping Centre would benefit from a total revamp; the Irish Nationwide Building Society needed to be painted up; Celtic Bookmakers; Print Centre and Nutmeg (signage could be improved); and several premises on the Vevay Road could be improved. It was nice to see that Quinnsnorth has been done up. Overall, the adjudicators would like to commend you on the magnificent presentation of public buildings and to encourage the commercial sector to upgrade their premises - some might consider the use of flowers to enhance their premises also. The Aquarium continues to be an eyesore.

#### LITTER CONTROL

Overall, the adjudicators were extremely impressed with the litter control throughout Bray this year, congratulations, you definitely appear to be winning the battle against litter this year, well done. Maintain this vigilance at all costs. Obviously the presence of a litter warden and major street cleaning is of major benefit, but even the fact that the sea front/promenade was extremely busy did not result in a bad litter problem. In outer areas, there are one or two particular places that were looking quite bad on day of adjudication and you might try to work on some of these for next year; for example, at the cul-de-sac on the Upper Dargle Road, at Ballywaltron Heights (by the sign) and also on the open space adjacent to Boghall Shopping Centre. Overall, though, an excellent effort here. You might continue to encourage and educate children and you might initiate/expand Junior Litter Patrols during the Summer months.

#### TIDINESS

Overall, a very good performance under this category also. Try to remove the bunting as soon as possible after the festival. There was a very neat and tidy impression left with the adjudicators in the main areas, including the Main Street, down by the sea front etc. and in residential areas. All the main streets were clean and litter free. The car park of the cemetery was also very neat and tidy. Vevay Road was litter free, as was Church Road.

#### RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Overall there appears to be a high standard of presentation throughout the town's residential areas. Several parks that looked well at the time of adjudication, including Eglin Heights; Ripley Heights; Rosslyn Court; and the Maltings. Seacrest had an excellent presentation but some weeds were noted in the rose bed; the tree planting noted at Pine Wood Close is coming on well; Sidmorton Court was well presented as was Aravon Court; good tree planting was noted along the entrance to Cork Abbey Avenue and Glendale Drive was also looking well. It was nice to see the wall replaced at Wheatfield, which seemed to be noted by the adjudicators in previous years; Failte Park is a very nice residential development with good use of planting. There were very few bad areas noted. Dargle Heights does need to improve its entrance. The grassed area outside Fairy Hill would have benefited from strimming and weeds were noted along the perimeter wall at Glenlucan. Overall, the Residents Associations seem to be working. Well done.

#### ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The adjudicators were again impressed under this category. Approaching Bray from the north at the roundabout the grass had been neatly cut, as had the approaches off the motorway. On the entire approach there is evidence of neatness and tidiness with planting noted near the Welcome to Bray sign - try perhaps to kerb the grassed area here and re-seed where appropriate. The approach from Old Connaught Avenue was again, litter free; a good impression is created apart from where overgrown nettles were noted at a gate entrance, (this was particularly unsightly). The approach from Fassaroe Lane needs more attention and considerable landscaping. It was one of the negative areas noted by the

adjudicators. Along Killarney Road, further out the sculpture was noted - different. The roundabout was neat and well presented. Further in along here, major improvements are very much apparent. The road has been widened and there has also been some tree planting and very attractive new stone walls, have been built. Well done. Further in on the right hand side, more work is needed. Some litter was noted past the traffic lights on the right hand side and grass could have been a bit neater. Generally, though, the adjudicators feel that improvements have been made here. The new roundabout on the Greystones road was well presented but is not fully complete. Between this roundabout and the Welcome to Bray sign needs landscaping - you might include plans for this in your work programme. It was nice to see a bicycle lane incorporated. The Main Street was again looking very well this year with its cobble-locking, attractive street furniture, traditional lamp posts and the under-grounding which took place in previous years.

#### GENERAL IMPRESSION

The general impression left with the adjudicators following their visit to Bray was quite excellent. Obviously, a lot of activity has taken place over the last year. The message is obviously getting out to both the residents and the commercial sector. The adjudicators were particularly impressed with the litter control this year for the size of the town, not just in the Main Street but also in the outlying areas and along the sea front. An excellent presentation under this category. As already stated, you have an excellent approach and the adjudicators look forward to a detailed five year work programme which should include some innovative ideas to develop and enhance your town.