

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **WICKLOW TOWN**  
County : **WICKLOW**  
Category : **E**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 16-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17
Landscaping	40	25
The Built Environment	40	25
Litter Control	40	23
Tidiness	20	11
Residential Areas	30	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24
General Impression	10	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>177</b>

## Adjudicator's Comments

### OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Welcome to the new format of the Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for completed questionnaire, map and work programme for 1996, which was very helpful during the course of adjudication. It is good to see that there is continued upgrading of shopfronts taking place throughout the town, as well a good maintenance of open spaces. It is also good to see street landscaping improvements taking place. The adjudicators look forward to the submission of your detailed five work programme and look forward to seeing the planned projects develop over the coming years. Try to encourage more commercial and residential support. The comments noted about the traveller halting site were noted - try to include your plans for this in your work programme for next year.

### WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

There is potential for greater nature conservation throughout Wicklow town. You have a wonderful amount of potential wildlife amenities, for example, river side walk, the sea as well as the Murrough. A good starting point would be to identify wildlife habitats in your catchment area and see what type of birds, animals and fish etc. these attract. You could invite local environmental experts and groups to advise you and provide you with specialist information you require. During the course of adjudication, the adjudicators noticed the following - the walk near the railway station could have been much better presented; the picnic area was quite badly overgrown; the river side walk itself by Leitrim Place is a very nice feature - again, more information on the wildlife in the vicinity would be a nice feature, and also try to paint or fix the railings along this section. The continued coastal restoration works are needed along the Murrough - try also to develop the Broadlough area; this will be a very important wildlife project for the people of Wicklow.

### LANDSCAPING

Generally, most of the open spaces were very well maintained this year, which is an improvement on last year, and again, the adjudicators recognise the large amount of work that is needed in order to maintain these areas, let alone improve or enhance them. It was excellent to see the improvements made down by the Sailing Club, with cobble locking, new lighting and bollards, this is a major improvement, congratulations. It was also nice to see that the railings had been painted at The Mall and flowers planted - try to continue to enhance this area for next year. Improvements were also noted in the Market Square. In terms of the open spaces, the green by the gaol was very well presented at time of adjudication as was Fitzwilliam Square; the grounds of the Church had a beautiful presentation; but the area opposite was quite bad, as was the junction by the school further up; the Black Castle area was relatively well maintained, litter free and it was nice to see that the cannons had been painted up. Perhaps a number of improvements might include the planting of salt tolerant shrubs/trees; the erection of Anti-Litter signs; provision of more litter bins on the grassed area and perhaps you might consider, as part of your long term work plan, developing the grassed area into a proper landscaped amenity area or park. The car park overlooking the golf course needed better maintenance at time of adjudication as small amounts of litter was evident as well as weeds and gravel by the kerbing; the shrubbery could also have been better presented. The grassed area in Leitrim Place could also be enhanced. It was nice to see the good landscaping and use of shrubbery within the grounds of the treatment plant, well done. On the road to the industrial estate, past the sculpture, some long grass by the wall took from the overall appearance. At the car park near Church Street, it is nice to see the mural has been repainted, well done; perhaps plant a few more trees in this area on the central island and remove the graffiti by the doors on the toilets. At the car park on the Murrough, it would be nice if this could be properly surfaced and some long grass was noted by the fencing which took from the overall appearance; otherwise this area was tidy and litter free, with the grassed area adjacent to it well trimmed, but weeds do tend to be a problem in some parts. The grounds of Wicklow Rovers are very well presented but it would be nice if the club house could be painted. Other areas that were looking well included outside the school coming in by Quinnsworth, and also the green area outside the school, and on Friars Hill and the green area opposite Quinnsworth, but some sprinklings of litter were noted here. Also, again this year, the grass outside the fence by Veba was

quite bad, the grass could be cut here and some salt tolerant trees or hedging could be planted here to improve the overall appearance although it was nice to see some wildflowers in this area. Overall, quite a good performance in this section. Try to work on the landscaping and presentation of the wildlife areas, e.g. river side walks etc.

## THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Generally, a number of very good improvements were noted in this section this year, well done. There is continued need for more improvements though but the adjudicators would like to commend the efforts of the commercial sector in this regard, with a number of new premises noted this year, in particular, Phil Healys was completed and was looking very well as was the Old Forge, which is an excellent presentation, congratulations on the effort here. Also, The Bakery, Kidstuff and Hannahs were noted, well done. It is also nice to see Freds Fashions, which is an improvement on the former eyesore. There are many other good examples throughout the town. The grounds of all the schools throughout the town were generally looking very well with the exception with the area outside the school on St. Patricks Road. At the railway station, the platform area is a major improvement on last year, congratulations on the effort here. In the car park area adjacent to the railway station, the grass had been cut in parts but needed cutting at the boundary with East Glendalough School; some litter was also evident where grass verges had been cut back - this area needs general improvement and might be one area that could be targeted by the Tidy Towns Committee in conjunction with the school children. A number of premises on the Main Street had made an effort with flowers, it was nice to see this and try to encourage more use of this next year. Some examples noted were The Coffee Shop; AIB Bank and Sheemore B&B. Other premises that were looking well were the County Council Grounds; Marine House Hostel, which had been painted - a great improvement, well done; the grounds of the Grand Hotel; the new apartments noted on the sea front - the appearance of the brown building really does take from it and landscaping is needed here; Gelletlies; The Opera House; Harris; An Stra Nua; Global Gourmet; Clarke Delahunts had been painted, well done; it was nice to see the stone shown up to the side of the building at Brazil, try to work on the front of this building for next year. Good use of colour scheme was also noted coming into the Main Street with the Abbey Newsagents; Blue Velvet and FBD all looking well. There is considerable room for improvement through the removal/replacement of plastic signage with more traditional materials, for example, The Baby Care complex could be improved; the plastic signs at the Pineto and Jet Cleaners; the FCA building needed to be painted at time of adjudication; Wire Ropes would also benefit from painting. Overall, it is good to see improvements being made and try to continue more of this.

## LITTER CONTROL

It was good to note that litter was not as bad as last year, which is commendable, for the size of the town, particularly in light of the fact that it was quite busy on day of adjudication. It is important for the Tidy Towns Committee and the people of Wicklow to note that litter and tidiness now comprise 20% of the entire marks under this competition, so there must be strong vigilance in this area. The Main Street was relatively litter free, which was good to note, as was the area by Fitzwilliam Square and Market Square. On Church Street, opposite the entrance to the car park litter was noted, but the street cleaner was noted working his way up to this point at time of adjudication. Some areas where litter was noted, included outside the newsagents on the Main Street, on St. Patricks Road; at the rear of Crennans Mini Market, as was the road leading up to the scenic car park. The field of the scenic car park was also quite bad with a number of cans and a large amount of litter noted - try to work on this as this is not very positive for a visitors viewing area of the town. On St. Patricks Hill litter was quite bad. Wicklow UDC might consider introducing a litter warden, as has been done in towns such as Bray.

## TIDINESS

The overall impression of Wicklow was one of improved tidiness and neatness. Small amounts of litter were in evidence but not as bad as last year. It is also good to see that improvements in the built environment are being made as well as in landscaping of open spaces, e.g. the Sailing Club. Try to pay attention to weeds which take from the overall appearance in a number of areas including, Church Hill and the area outside the golf club; also the area opposite St Patricks Church and outside the Tennis

Club. Continue to involve school children and try to develop a Junior Tidy Towns Committee of children during the summer which might take on some projects (perhaps some local business might sponsor the costs involved in this).

#### RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Generally, quite a good presentation throughout the town this year under this heading. There is ample evidence of individual efforts throughout the town, both in individual houses and within residential estates. Most residential parks were well presented, for example, Dunbur Park; Crinion Park; Heatherbrook and Brooklands with its new nameplate. Most premises on Leitrim Place were very well presented. There was an excellent individual example noted, for example, Number 6 in the terrace of houses down by the North Quay area. The grass at the entrance to the park opposite the scenic car park, where tree planting has taken place was in need of cutting at time of adjudication. In Seacrest, the front of the park has a very good presentation and is very well maintained - unfortunately, the area towards the rear does need more attention, as litter was quite widespread. The Rise and Harbour View were also okay with the adjudicators noting the road widened and a new residential development taking place in a number of areas, Rose Hill etc. In time to come, try to ensure that these residential developments have generous open spaces. The grounds of Glebemount were looking well. A good effort was also noted with a number of premises on Kilmantin Road and the road parallel to it.

#### ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Again, the adjudicators noted improvement under this category. This category also includes Main Streets and back streets as well this year. On the approach road from Rathnew the Welcome to Wicklow sign with planting noted near it. The left hand side approach was not too bad but on the right hand side weeds were noted along the kerbs which were actually quite bad and took from the overall appearance. Tree planting is coming on well - try to watch the grass by the fencing on the right hand side and look at the options of kerbing or landscaping this area. Closer in, it was nice to see flowers and planting - could perhaps have been better but just hadn't come into full bloom at time of adjudication. On the approach road to Wicklow from the Beehive pub, it was okay, relatively neat and tidy and litter free, apart from the area overgrown by the Tourist Office sign and also the 30 MPH signs need to be replaced. Again, some weeds were noted by the kerbs, try to maintain vigilance in this area. Approaching from the south by the Coast Road, an improvement has been noted with the re-surfacing and the footpath, but the left hand side bank would benefit from a retaining wall if this could be considered in your long term plan. The main street areas; the Main Street was litter free and well presented; the problem of illegal parking needs to be tackled as it takes from the overall appearance and gives the town and Main Street a very cluttered appearance. On Church Hill, grass needed to be cut at time of adjudication - use of weed killer was noted, which gave an unsightly appearance as the dead vegetation had not been cleared away. The street by the Garda Station was very well presented; it was a nice area with the trees complementing it. Leitrim Place was also very well presented with grass cut at time of adjudication and very litter free. On Seaview/Castlefield Road, more attention is needed with long grass by the fencing. Dunbur Road was a very tidy area, well done. Overall, an improvement on last year, try to continue making improvements on the approach roads.

#### GENERAL IMPRESSION

Continue to encourage the commercial sector to make improvements in the built environment. There is good evidence of work this year with a lot of improvements being made, as well as the maintenance of open spaces. Wicklow, as already mentioned in previous years has potential to be a very attractive seaside town and is one that you must be more vigilant about in terms of attacking the litter problem and also taking on a number of innovative projects in your long term programme. The adjudicators wish the committee every success in their efforts and congratulate them on their work programme this year.