

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **BLACKWATER**  
County : **WEXFORD**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 03-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	32
The Built Environment	40	32	35
Landscaping	40	28	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	23
Litter Control	40	32	29
Tidiness	20	16	14
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	35	35
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>226</b>

## **Blackwater, Co. Wexford**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

A work programme, separate from the application form, is now a requirement. This document is essential in establishing realistic objectives and allows a much more comprehensive assessment of projects undertaken in the Tidy Towns Competition. Often the works proposed occur over several years and thus long term planning can be better explained and adopted strategies more clearly understood through the report rather than yearly application forms. There is a very sympathetic approach in the development of projects within the village to enhance the setting of both the buildings and the landscape spaces. All areas have been tackled with a high standard of finish and a consistency to treatment.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Lots of interesting street furniture all around and development at the stream makes for interesting treatment of a water body. The clearing of the walk to the cemetery reinforces its visual connections to the road, while also allowing easy access to a most interesting site. The village should tackle the need to clearly define pedestrian areas from vehicle areas and little has been achieved with respect to barrier-free design. The presentation of all the public facilities is to a high standard and the new works carried out recently demonstrate a continuation of the commitment to ensure that Blackwater contains many interesting features. Of note is the need to clear up the oil spills on the concrete near the river as this is a rare thing to see in most towns nowadays.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The Committee must be complimented on the simple and striking planting areas around the village. The planting of fuchsia is a very sympathetic treatment to the local setting and is also a method of ensuring permanent colour. The planting of the hedge near the 5 Cross-roads is very pleasant and will maintain the image of the associated hedgerows edging the road. The presentation of the open space beside the river creates a very relaxed mood and reinforces the overall approach being taken by the Committee of sympathetic plantings, building on existing natural features and demonstrating a strong sense of control to the placement of colour throughout the town.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The bird boxes seen beside the river demonstrate a positive approach towards experimenting with the provision of wild life habitats. However, the planting of indigenous plants as a food source for birds would extend the commitment to encouraging and enhancing the wildlife element associated with the village. The lands adjoining the stream are interestingly handled and demonstrate the desire to encourage wild life which can be easily observed from the bridge.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Control of litter within the village is excellent throughout all the areas and bins are strategically located to allow for easy use of such facilities.

## **TIDINESS**

The overall appearance of the village is one of a committed effort to ensuring a high presentation standard and all areas reflect a balanced approach rather than zoning on specific areas.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The residential areas are extremely important to the overall amenity of the village. They provide very striking plant arrangements and add much visual interest as one uses the footways. There is a great sense of community spirit established through the well tended gardens.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

Entry to the village from all roads is neat and tidy. The recent introduction of a new hedge on the road from Ballyvalloo will definitely improve this important corner and much of the planting is very sympathetic to both the surrounding landscape and the adjacent gardens. There is a very relaxed sense to the treatment of all road edges which ensures a very balanced approach between the surrounding countryside and presentation of the urban spaces. Of particular note is the use of fuchsias on some hedgerows which should be extended to ensure that the theme of planting provides a consistency of treatment throughout the village.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The presentation of this village demonstrates the clear pride in belonging to the main street and entry roads and that all are willing to provide some form of input, whether in private spaces or within the public domain so as to visually enhance the setting of the village. The need for a report is important in establishing the future goals so as to ensure that the committed effort is maintained.

## **SECOND ADJUDICATION (7/8/97)**

Blackwater looked very well on second adjudication which, given the recent storm damage, was quite an achievement. All properties were neatly presented and landscaped areas do not appear to have been irreparably damaged. The new residential developments in the village are being finished to a high standard and in particular the one on the Kilmuckridge entrance to the village. This is much admired in relation to its entrance from the public road. It is hoped that other residential developments in progress will be finished to a similar high standard. A number of walls and roofs here and there could be cleaned and / or painted. A boundary wall at the Kilmuckridge entrance to the village could be stone-faced.

