

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **GOREY**
County : **WEXFORD**
Category : **D**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 03-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	23	23
The Built Environment	40	29	23
Landscaping	40	20	23
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	10	12
Litter Control	40	27	23
Tidiness	20	11	10
Residential Areas	30	18	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	22
General Impression	10	6	5
TOTAL MARK	300	164	157

Gorey, Co. Wexford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

No report was submitted to identify the development approach over a five year period, thus it is difficult to identify the specific areas which will be developed by the Tidy Towns Committee. The 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.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The town has great vibrancy with all sorts of traditional shop fronts and this variation gives a great liveliness to the whole place. The different colours of all the shop buildings from the yellows, blues and light greys are what bring the vibrancy to the main street and give a traditional Irish town feeling. There is a very strong image to the main street and this should not be lost through trying to prettify elements within the street. The consistent overall improvement makes this town very special within the region. Unfortunately at this time there are still improvements being made, thus the full extent of the urban improvements cannot be assessed during this season, but the town must be complimented on the particular approach it has taken to redevelopment.

LANDSCAPING

The main street is difficult to assess because it is unfinished and awaits the installation of the street trees. Hopefully these will be of a scale and species matching other street trees on the adjoining streets. The Gardens Competition has obviously had a great benefit in enlivening the surroundings in the residential areas as there were many fine gardens. The small incidental areas off the adjoining streets to the main street have all been very pleasantly finished and there is a great diversity of ground covers and wall ivies which should be encouraged and extended throughout the many walls of the town.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

There is no mention of how the town was approaching wildlife in the application form and this should be addressed in the forthcoming report. There is significant areas where this element can be introduced through the simple introduction of indigenous plants rather than exotic species.

LITTER CONTROL

This would seem to be zoned and greater concern is given to the main street rather than the residential areas. The town must be complimented on the effective litter management that is in place because during the several visits made to the town it always had a

very clean image and even in the evenings after a very busy shopping day there was very little litter to be seen.

TIDINESS

Current roadworks have an impact on assessing this particular element. However, overall the standard is very high and the adjoining streets to the main street demonstrate a high level of concern for this issue. A significant amount of loose gravel which collects along the kerb sides should be dealt with as this detracts from the overall image of tidiness.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

These are all very well tended and very many gardens display attractive arrangements of plants and selection of species. There are some very fine examples of established mature plants which demonstrate a long tradition for gardens in the town. Of note is the beautiful wisteria growing on Glenbower Guest Home. The Gardens Competition must be effective as the presentation of gardens was of a very high standard.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Entry roads vary in their presentation. The Ferns road requires more attention and greater consistency could be achieved through planting which is already demonstrated by the very well kept and good use of plant material on the Arklow road. The extensive areas of loose gravel need to be addressed so as to clean up the surfaces at many junctions but this may easily be sorted out after the urban renewal works are completed.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The town has made significant changes over recent years which all contribute to a very effective and enhanced environment. The vibrancy of the commercial area is a very important characteristic and this has been strongly recognised through the recent renovations of many of the buildings along the main street. Of particular delights is the extensive range of colours which create a special and strong character to the town.