

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **NEW ROSS**
County : **WEXFORD**
Category : **E**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 30-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	29
The Built Environment	40	25	25
Landscaping	40	26	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	12
Litter Control	40	19	22
Tidiness	20	11	10
Residential Areas	30	22	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	23
General Impression	10	5	6
TOTAL MARK	300	171	171

New Ross, Co. Wexford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The application form was very informative in providing updated information on the projects but this must be supported by a thorough report highlighting the goals and objectives of the Committee so as to understand the larger picture of the Committee's role in the town. The general approach is not clearly stated though new projects are easily seen as marked improvements, while past projects do not suffer from being left behind. This reflects a balanced concern to both past and future projects which provides an integrated and long term approach. The emphasis in developing a strong image along the river is well handled, but the scale of the town requires an overall master plan for 3-5 years which would be helpful in ensuring a consistent approach and allow one to focus on specific projects. In general it is not easy to establish if priorities are being achieved because of the extensive scale of the task at hand.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

There is an extremely interesting setting for the town which is reflected in the way the older developments addressed the slopes and river front. At present traffic control would seem to place extensive constraints on developing a relaxed environment to enjoy the variety of spaces. This contributes to wear and tear on many improvements. The public buildings are well presented and many of the new renovations to the shop fronts are beginning to transform portions of the streets with good use of colour and sensitive detailing. A street colour scheme could be examined in the 3-5 year report as a means of co-ordinating development. The use of colourful displays of flowers are a significant improvement to many areas and offset the visual impact of the cars. In general the Quay needs attention to weed control as the weeds are inclined to detract from previous quayside improvements.

LANDSCAPING

The projects to the river front are a great benefit for all to use and the new improvements to the parking space and picnic area which overlook the river must be commended as it is well tended and has long term benefit of improving the entry to the town. There have been a lot of trees planted around some public spaces which are well cared for and existing landscaped areas are well maintained. The colours associated with the floral arrangements look great. The roads leading into the town ensure a very sheltered and pleasant entry sequence which is memorable. It is clear to see that there is a long term commitment to ensure that this character is maintained as is evident by the significant number of trees along the lead-in roads and the Committee should be complimented on this action.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The creation of a wildlife area within walking distance of the centre

of the town at Creywell is to be commended. This wild flower area will be quite a pleasure at Creywell.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control is in need of a stronger management programme as many areas were affected by litter and this detracted from the setting of buildings or walks along the quay. The new parking area by the river was very free of litter as were some of the amenity spaces, but in general the hard landscape areas need more attention than areas outside of the central shopping area.

TIDINESS

Tidiness ranges in standards throughout the town and in general the areas most affected by traffic are the areas where control would seem to be most difficult. The extensive areas of loose gravel detract from areas that had little litter, while the need to have weed control at strategic spots must be addressed in a priority listing so as to reduce the excessive amount of maintenance. Given the excessive pressure of traffic around the bridge, the Committee must get some assistance to allow their efforts to be recognised. The general impression on entering New Ross is one of an extremely tidy place as these roads are well presented and are litter free, which makes a very good entry sequence into the town.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Most areas visited were tidy and well presented which must be an outcome of active involvement with the residential associations. The open spaces are well maintained but may require further planting to give more enclosure to the users of the spaces. Where colour was present through the use of plants and flowers it greatly added to the amenity of the areas and the efforts are rewarding for all.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The entry roads into the town are extremely well handled and a credit to the town. Where roads and streets require comment is on the impact of national traffic in wearing out road markings and kerb edges. This is an unfortunate impact resulting from the scale of the carriageways within the public spaces. Loose gravel on surfaces is an easy element to deal with and perhaps is the greatest source in reducing the tidy appearance of the roads. Where the town has more control over the traffic, such as in areas off the primary routes and the by-pass, the roads are in a much better condition and well maintained, which greatly contributes to the tidiness of the town. Car parking needs much stricter control so as to ensure that there is space for pedestrians. The proposed upgrading of the pedestrian ways to the river front is very important and when completed they should be a valuable contribution to the urban environment.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

New Ross has extensive areas to be addressed which will require an overall phasing programme to accomplish the objectives of the

Committee. Much of the very good work is offset by the external impacts which cannot be controlled by the town itself and will require significant assistance from outside bodies (such as the NRA). This makes the need to create an overall document to direct future projects as an important task if it is to reflect the drive and concerns of the Committee and allow acquisition of further funds to carry out needed urban improvements. The stated objectives and proposed projects are all reflective of a most committed effort to resolving many of the opportunities and issues in the town and the information provided demonstrated that this process will be well handled.