

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **WEXFORD**
County : **WEXFORD**
Category : **E**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 05-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	28
The Built Environment	40	28	26
Landscaping	40	27	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	27	25
Tidiness	20	11	9
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	29
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	192	186

Wexford, Co. Wexford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The application form provided 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 previous 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. At present it must also be recognised that the extent of urban renewal work has made a significant impression on the town for this year.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The town is exceptional in the urban renewal works which were carried out in recent years. 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 very well presented and many of the new renovations to the shop fronts and footways are beginning to transform portions of the streets with good use of colour and sensitive detailing. There are some very pleasant shop fronts such as Barkers. The use of colourful displays of flowers are a significant improvement to many areas and offset the visual impact of the car. In general the Quay could not be assessed at present because of the extensive amount of new harbour works being carried out and this impact is considered only temporary. However it must be stated that all the hanging plants and planters introduced around the town have a significant impact on introducing yet another level of colour.

LANDSCAPING

The projects mentioned in the application form were examined and all displayed a high level of attention to implementation, but did not seem to have the same level of attention given to the maintenance. This was particularly so with the grass cutting at bases of trees. The landscape treatment within the County Offices is in an early stage of development and will be a real delight in future years. It would be the planting of the trees at Talbot Green where more consideration should be given to how maintenance might be improved and a more sheltered environment be provided. The entry roundabouts are very much part of the many floral displays associated with the entry sequence to Wexford. The floral display by the bridge was very appealing

and provided a spectacular use of colour. It is clear to see that there is a long term commitment to the entry presentation ensuring that this character is maintained as is evident by the significant numbers of trees along the lead-in roads. The Committee should be complimented on this action.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

It is a pity there are no projects to develop some wildlife habitats within this urban area. Such projects should be included within the Overall Development approach. The local environmental expert should be asked for advice.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter management is very good and there was little visible, which, in such a large area, is quite an achievement. The Committee is to be commended on their efforts.

TIDINESS

There is a good air of tidiness throughout the town of Wexford and on the whole weed control at kerbs is very good. The provision of recycling centres is to be applauded. Care must be taken that litter does not build up around these centres.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Residential areas are pleasant and attractive. Many of the grassed areas and small parks could benefit from more maintenance. There is much room for the planting of trees. Large species of trees should be planted. All trees should be very well staked and if damaged, replaced immediately. Trees in grassed areas should be given a clean circle of earth at the base and this maintained at least until the tree is fully established.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

All approach roads are very pleasant and well maintained. The provision of disabled parking spaces is to be applauded. All car parks are well maintained. Traffic is free flowing as a result of one-way streets and strict control on parking.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Wexford creates a wonderful impression of a bustling, well managed town. Despite all the works and upheavals which are ongoing at the moment, the town still exudes an excellent atmosphere and an air of excitement. The Committee is to be highly commended for all the hard work that they have done against very difficult odds. When all these renewals are completed, Wexford will be a very fine town.