

Tidy Towns 1997

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **DELGANY**
County : **WICKLOW**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 08-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	31
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	24	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	18
Litter Control	40	28	28
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	20	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	22
General Impression	10	6	5
TOTAL MARK	300	192	184

Delgany, County Wicklow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your completed questionnaire, map and detailed development plan for Delgany which was very helpful during the course of adjudication. The adjudicators enjoyed their annual visit to Delgany, as you have an excellent developmental approach and is a pretty village with very good projects on-going. Your detailed survey is welcome and you have taken a very professional approach to this competition. Good luck with your recently initiated flower festival, and long may it continue. It would be helpful to the adjudicators if you could give us an annual breakdown of what projects have actually been completed, and how successful you have been with the individual projects, as many of those noticed seem to be ongoing. Try to incorporate some of the following features to your overall development plan also - the historical and cultural uniqueness of the village; visibility of bilingualism to the village; accessibility in terms of seating, paths etc., not just for disabled but for elderly who may require seating. There has been little use of Irish; try to work on this.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

You have a unique heritage in some of your buildings throughout the village, and one that should be nurtured with care. Try to avoid bunting; all it requires is simple presentation. In looking at the buildings, there are two main aspects to consider, one is the quality of the individual structure, the presentation of the building itself, materials used, etc. and secondly, is the building in its overall context. Insensitive changes to individual buildings can destroy the overall character of a street; buildings on corners, or at the end of streets assume greater civic design in importance because of their location. If such buildings are modified insensitively, or allowed to fall into disrepair this can have serious implications. Thankfully, this is not the case with Delgany. In making improvements to commercial buildings, try to avoid all signage above the fascia level, signage should be incorporated into the architectural design, for example, between windows and doors; try to use painted timber shop fronts, not varnish; however, the Horse and Hound is very attractive with its signage. Try also to extend presentation activities to footpaths, forecourts and side areas. Appropriate street furniture can also help greatly in enhancing, and offsetting a good presentation. In general, buildings were very well presented throughout Delgany this year, and even Pattersons Garage with the large clad building to the rear is a unique presentation. Premises such as The Wicklow Arms and The Delgany Inn are very attractive buildings and just simply require regular painting to offset a very attractive architectural design. Try to paint the FAS training building, as this took from the overall appearance.

LANDSCAPING

Congratulations on the work done to date in the graveyard; while slightly overgrown it is good to see that considerable work is

taking place here on an ongoing basis. The school grounds are very well presented, but the grassed area outside it needs replanting. The Church of Ireland and graveyard are very well presented. The area opposite Pattersons needs to be improved. The area by The Old Rectory is very nice with painted seating and signage was being painted at time of adjudication; try to tackle the area behind this on the lower road (Priory Road). The pump area was very attractive, well done. The park on Glen Road was also very well maintained, well done.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Conserving nature is a new venture for many towns and can appear daunting at first. The adjudicators recognise that environmental programmes can take time to get up and running and even longer to assess their success. This section of the report requires an involvement of all groups, including schools in the village. The emphasis is on the conservation and enhancement of wildlife habitats and the environment. Woodlands, rivers, ponds, hedgerows, open spaces, graveyards and walls are important habitats. The committee needs to identify the habitats in their area and then determine the appropriate actions to conserve and enhance these habitats. Guidelines in the Tidy Towns book offers other suggestions as to the type of initiatives you might undertake. Is there a local wildlife expert, or a member of the community with experience in this area, that your committee can draw on? In preparing an environmental programme for the village, there should be a year-round participation in environmental protection and promotion involving all members of the community and providing access for all. The next step is to identify what habitats are in your area - are these woodlands, wetlands, grasslands or coastal habitats, or other habitats such as cemeteries, walls etc. Prepare a survey and map, showing the areas of wildlife importance and areas of potential importance. Other steps involved in the preparation of the environmental programme for Delgany would include identification of species list of the flora and fauna in the area; preparation of a wildlife management plan as part of the area development plan; work to be carried out including conservation projects, wildlife gardens, areas of conservation, access, tree planting, information areas etc. This must be carried out in sympathy with the local landscape and must not be overwhelming visually, or environmentally. The work done in the graveyard is a good example of this. Please note that the graveyard does not have to be manicured as it provides a wildlife habitat. Also, look at the creation of buffer zones, examples include reinstatement and repair of hedges, especially on approach roads and old walls, woodland fringes allowed to grow, or overgrow; riversides planted with bank protecting trees and protected from mowing and so on. In Delgany, you have a number of options in relation to the above mentioned comments, for example, the river and brook picnic area near the N11 approach road, on the Glen road is a particularly important habitat and one that should be nurtured and developed. A whole range of mature trees were noted here and throughout the village of Delgany. Finally, Residential Areas and their associated trees, hedging etc. provide important habitats - it is good to see a number of mature areas in this regard throughout

the village. Also tree planting is important and must be considered carefully as it can impact on the village and create a very positive impression in years to come. It is nice to see that new developments are placing an importance in tree planting, for example, in Riverfield.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter is not really a problem in Delgany, thankfully. Some litter, however, was noted on the approach from Killincarrig, just in the grassed verges. Small sprinklings were noted on the Glen Road, try to clear around the 30 MPH sign. There no major outbursts but continued vigilance is required.

TIDINESS

Overall, there was a tidy appearance throughout Delgany this year. Grass and weeds, however, tend to take from the overall tidy appearance and need to be constantly monitored. They were noted at the base of boundary walls, for example, by Delgany Golf Club. Attacking these areas with the minimum, or no, use of herbicides is a sign of very good maintenance.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There are excellent individual residential areas noted throughout Delgany. There are some beautifully presented premises with lovely mature grounds, for example, on the Blacklion Road as well as throughout the village. Some premises would benefit from painting. The Old Rectory was very well presented. A park noted, without a nameplate which includes Chinock House, all showed very attractive premises. The back of Aunty Mays could be tidied up, or screened off. It was nice to see a freshly painted at Beechwood House. Overall, a relatively good performance under this section.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

On the approach road from Killincarrig, grass verges had been cut, well done. Perhaps try to replace the Delgany sign and incorporate bilingualism or historical significance to the village. On the approach road from the N11, some weeds were noted at the base of walls. On the Blacklion approach, no landscaping had taken place and at the sign this area could be tidied up. Along Bellevue Hill, the Delgany sign had graffiti on it and needs to be replaced. Closer in the verges had been cut, which is good to see. On Priory Road, there was very good maintenance, helped no doubt by the residents. Regular sweeping up of organic debris, for example, on the approach road along Glen Road is needed to maintain an overall tidy appearance.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The general impression is that the adjudicators enjoyed their visit to Delgany. You have a unique village, saturated in history. However, unless many of these aspects had been pointed out to the adjudicators, they would not know of the significance and availability of different places of interest. Try to come up with a strategy of making these facilities known to visitors, either through signage or information plaques and try to incorporate some

interpretation. Good luck in your efforts for 1998 and the adjudicators look forward to subsequent visits.