

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **GREYSTONES**
County : **WICKLOW**
Category : **F**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 01-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	32
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	26	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	15
Litter Control	40	28	27
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	25
General Impression	10	6	5
TOTAL MARK	300	199	193

Greystones, County Wicklow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your entry form and copy of your three year developmental plan outlining your objectives and progress to date as well as this year's programme. Thank you also for the map of Greystones which helped during adjudication. The adjudicator was somewhat disappointed not to see significant progress on many of your key priorities. For example, works were taking place at Killincarrig Cross which took from the overall appearance here. The picnic area could have been better presented. Sculpture was noted in Burnaby Park which was positive. The harbour area has not been tackled, although it is recognised that this is a huge problem area in terms of overall future development proposals and also the triangle, on the approach road from Bray had not been tackled. So greater efforts are needed and perhaps the objectives need to be narrowed down or greater support encouraged from both residents, business interests as well as the local authority. Having said that, Greystones is a very appealing town undergoing significant development through out. There appears to be good integration of both new and old, particularly in the built environment.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

In terms of a progress report this year, limited improvements are noted. Having said that there are excellent examples of many premises that create a good impression. The Lawn Tennis Club has an excellent presentation with quite an appealing building complemented by extensive landscaping around the tennis courts. The Rugby Club and its grounds were also well maintained. South Shore Car Park was litter free and well maintained this year, well done. Helen's Florist and Bethnell Antiques were very well presented. Try to paint over Cappuccino. Pizza Mill was well presented as was E.S.B. and Sam McAulays Pharmacy. Other well presented shop fronts included Le Paysan, Fenton Fires, O'Briens and Poppy's. The Church Of Ireland was also beautifully presented. Brady's Home Care, which is also new, is very good and helps to improve the appearance of this area greatly. The Fire Station was well presented, but the wall at the Car - Park to the right of Coopers needed painting. It was good to see The La Touche Hotel newly painted, looking very bright and cheerful. The Car - Park behind the Railway Station still needs further improvements, as do the toilets in this area. The new Dart Railway Station and associated works were noted which were probably not completed at time of adjudication. Greystones Post Office would also benefit from painting and finally, Greystones Antiques could also be improved. Overall, there are some very good

examples of well presented buildings with unique design features. Encouragement should be given to all local businesses to encompass the ethos of Tidy Towns Competition and to explain that the important role that each premises has to play in the overall appearance of Greystones.

LANDSCAPING

As outlined in your development objectives and priorities for the year, the open space opposite Greystones Lawn Tennis Club could have been better presented. The Harbour area could also be better presented with weeds evident, chains and bollards could be painted and perhaps a limited number of well maintained flower tubs could be included to improve the appearance of this area. Some broken seats were also noted at the sea front; however, it was good to see that some had also been replaced, well done in this regard. The adjudicator noted the park off the main street, together with Sculpture and the Bowling Green and open spaces within residential estates were generally very well maintained. In terms of landscaping, the presence of many mature parks and individual residential areas has heightened the approach to landscaping. For example, on the road leading down towards The Church of Ireland, the presence of mature trees is nice to see. As outlined in your development plan, the adjudicator agrees that you have a number of key priority areas to work on. It might be appropriate to make short term improvements, pending further development to these areas.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

A more holistic approach under this heading is needed in terms of the overall handling by the committee of the needs of wildlife, plants, birds and animals, as well as specific projects you might undertake. While credit can be given for specific wildlife projects, it is of far greater importance to assess the way in which the centre is handling its natural amenities generally including its coastline, hedgerows, small woodlands etc., together with the area's wildlife needs. The guidelines in the Tidy Towns book offers suggestions as to the type of initiative you might undertake, and in this regard the adjudicator would welcome realistic objectives on how the local population and wildlife and their natural amenities can co - exist in a proactive way. For example, the presence of considerable amount of dumping adjacent to the North shore does not exactly encourage the prospects of caring for wildlife and natural amenities. However, the presence of many mature trees and well landscaped parks, for example, the Burnaby Woods etc., shows that natural amenities and wildlife can be catered for within the town and surrounding areas. A local wildlife expert might be able to help the committee to draw up an action plan on this aspect of the competition, which should include schools. Part of this must include an approach to

the coast line which could include the coastal pathway, wildlife trail etc.

LITTER CONTROL

The adjudicator was impressed with the level of litter control within the main urban areas with no particular problem noted along the main street. Approach roads were also quite good as were residential areas. However, the one disappointing area noted by the adjudicator was within the rough Car - Park area of the North shore of Greystones where dumping was evident. Try to work on this for next year. There is no excuse for dumping. Action by the local authority should be instant in this regard, especially in light of the fact that local authorities are now required to prepare 3 year litter management plan. You should consult with your local authority to establish what their proposals are for Greystones.

TIDINESS

It was good to note recycling facilities well signposted in a number of areas. However, opposite the Tennis Club, the adjudicator would agree that this is not necessarily the right location for these. The area to the front of the Sailing Club was very untidy. Over grown weeds along kerbing and bollards take from the overall appearance. It would be helpful if there was a plan to underground cables particularly along the main street, which would improve the overall appearance of tidiness and reduce visual clutter.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The adjudicator was impressed with the presentation of both individual and combined efforts under this category. Several areas deserve mention including Burnaby Lawns, Burnaby Park, Manor Avenue, Burnaby Woods, Woodlands, Redford Park and Rathdown Park and The Burnaby, to name but a few. The Burnaby, is a very attractive residential area. It has magnificent houses and mature gardens displaying magnificent trees, shrubs etc. However, it is disappointing to see the state of footpaths which are dangerous particularly for older people. A plan might be looked at to upgrade some of these areas.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The adjudicator recognised that works were taking place in a number of areas, which probably took from an otherwise good appearance. In this regard allowances are being made for ongoing works at the triangle near the pharmacy, the approach from Bray and at Killincarrig Cross-roads etc. However, in light of the fact these were key objectives of the committee, it is disappointing that none of these have come to fruition yet. The approach road along Mill Road Harbour

was neat and tidy and it was encouraging to see the provision of cycling lanes included. The grassed areas opposite the Esso Station were overgrown. The approach road from Bray was litter free and weed free, resulting in a neat and tidy appearance.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The adjudicator noted good presentation of many key areas. Greystones is a very attractive town with exceptional buildings, unique features, such as the harbour area and coastline, complemented by magnificently kept residential areas. It is also encouraging to see other improvements, for example, in key areas such as Brady's Home Care which has greatly improved the appearance of this area and shows what can be done. Vigilance is needed in a number of areas, for example, simply painting the wall adjacent to Coopers or the premises over Cappuccino. Continued and expanded support is needed from all sectors of the community. Overall, it is a nice town but there is room for improvement as outlined in the report. Good luck for next year.