

*"Caring for our environment"*

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

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 20-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	35
The Built Environment	40	28	27
Landscaping	40	32	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	22
Litter Control	40	27	25
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>213</b>

## **Enniscorthy, County Wexford**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

This was another year of continuing progress for Enniscorthy. Thank you for the detailed entry submitted and also for the most useful map supplied with it. The town collectively has made great strides over the last number of years and there is a palpable air of progress and enhanced activity, more noticeable each year. The rate and pace of development brings with it its own problems and a need for carefully thought plans and procedures. This is, perhaps, most noticeable in the area of signage, a topic we return to below. The extent of green spaces within the town is a particular and desirable feature. The castle focal point was particularly strong.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The town is singularly well endowed with civic and particularly mercantile premises of note. Pride of place is afforded to the UDC offices and especially the delightful concourse now fronting it. The 1798 Centre was well presented and catching the eye was the attractive rubble wall opposite it, Doyle's Pub, Caulfield's' Super-Valu supermarket and McCauley's are all examples of fine, traditional shop fronts. The Image dress shop and Shenanigans were colourful and relied for their impact on the skilful use of strong colours. At a different scale, the splendid, traditional shop front of Dempsey's now appears to be in some danger of deterioration while the very fine house, beside Lymington House, appears abandoned.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The river and riverside developments are a delight particularly the trees and grassed area alongside the Slaney towards the new hotel. The many, and extensive grassed areas throughout the town have been very well presented. The open concourse in front of the town hall is particularly striking. The town provides many examples of splendid individual gardens which are colourful, creative and imaginative. The Lymington House gardens are a delight while the flower display at the unusually structured Garda Station is also of interest. Planting at the town centre and at the large roundabout on the Dublin Road is somewhat sparse by comparison. Where it is thought necessary to use planters rather than ground planting it is important that these be more than adequately filled in order to create a cascading impression for best effect. On the day of adjudication the fountain in the town square was very much underpowered and seen at less than its full and impressive potential.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The delightful increase in the swan population on the Slaney, together with the mallard ducks bring new vitality and interest to the riverside. The installation of feeding centres and many other initiatives undertaken by our committee over the years are now reaching delightful fruition. The value of the extensive area alongside the Dublin Road roundabout should also be recognised as this has created ideal conditions for enhanced number and species of birdlike. Individual and small wildlife habitats abound throughout the town. All of these opportunities, collectively, might be best exploited by the creation of a wildlife programme where schools and other youth groups can be gainfully involved.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

After the slight dip in performance last year, there has been a measurable improvement in the current year. Sensible and suitable litter bins, as at the UDC concourse are clearly advantageous as are those at the town centre near the post office while there were large and sensible litter bins on the railway station itself, sadly, the railway square was badly disfigured. Minor amounts of litter were noticed in some of the housing estates and even on some of the grassed areas, for example, the Fair Green and along Nunnery Road.

## **TIDINESS**

We welcome the Recycle for Life installation at the town centre. On the opposite side of the river the graffiti on the electric installations jarred considerably. There are still too many examples of weeds and soil accumulating at the base of walls on some approach roads. Others, notably the New Ross approach road was delightfully swept, neat and appealing. Large scale, as such, need not necessarily be less appealing than the small centre. For example, although very large scale, Iveco featured well-maintained grounds. Many of the towns numerous signs do need to be washed or repainted. On the day of adjudication, there were some examples of the Slaney River bed itself being used as a "resting place" for supermarket trolleys. The new waterfront car park near the railway was very well presented but again there is a tendency to allow weeds to develop between the roadway and kerbing.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Substantial development building is in progress throughout the centre. The new meadowland is maturing nicely while the communal grassed areas in the Slaneyview Park were very well presented. Individual houses achieved varying levels of presentation. A number of the houses on the

Vinegar Hill road were newly painted and attractive. The recent infill buildings on the road leading to St John's Hospital caught the eye and are very suitable to their location. Established locations like the terrace on Millpark Road and Madeira Grove were, in general, very well presented with occasionally a tendency to permit weed and spoil somewhat. St Aidan's Villa projected varying standards with some excellent quality gardens. The treatment to the halting site on Vinegar Hill Road has proved very successful.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

The quality of road surface itself varies substantially. The resurfacing of Vinegar Hill is a great success whereas the approach to the railway station features alarmingly deep potholes. Speed limit and other signage on approach roads in general were well presented and we welcome the new Slí na Sláinte signposting. On the New Ross Road the Welcome to Enniscorthy sign seemed somewhat jaded. We draw attention to the extent of the signage at a number of locations. There are no less than 16 signs confronting the visitor arriving at the bridge from Wexford, while 24 signs would be encountered between the post office and the old bridge. Having crossed the bridge 15 signs would be discovered while opposite O'Donovan's Motor Division an additional 10 signs were noted. It is suggested that some formula be discovered to reduce the resultant clutter and serious danger of reducing their effectiveness.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Enniscorthy has become an increasingly agreeable centre to visit and adjudicate. While, of necessity the Tidy Towns reports will sometimes highlight items still calling for attention, the overall trend in Enniscorthy, over a number of years, has been very positively upwards. There is a spirit within the town of progress and improvement which reflects creditably on all those associated with or involved in the successful tidy towns programme.

## **SECOND ADJUDICATION (08/08/00)**

It is very encouraging indeed to find a large town reaching such a high level in the Competition. Members of the Tidy Towns Association in Enniscorthy will be all too familiar with the numerous difficulties which militate against excellence in a busy urban centre. The several major initiatives undertaken over the last few years have given and are giving a real vibrancy to the townscape – among them the concave apartment buildings facing the convex warehouses (incidentally, the superb but faded lettering on the latter is well worth restoring even if the business has moved), the '98 Heritage Centre, the imaginatively designed swimming pool, the excellent new sections of landscaping, etc. In

regard to the latter, there is no possibility of an award until planting has established and really made its mark: but the potential is definitely there. The inspiration of tall warehouses upon new housing developments is warmly applauded – and congratulations to Minch Norton for keeping the old industrial buildings, which are so full of character, so well. The very confusing signage referred to by the first adjudicator needs a solution; as well as this, untidy advance signs, mainly for businesses, are starting to appear on approaches, and these give a very poor introduction. On this occasion there was considerable litter on the east side of the river, centred round the bus stop. As is usual in large towns, there are areas of poor paving and road surfacing, and several unsightly ‘corners’ which have to be attended to; this certainly takes time, but the key word is ‘perseverance’ and the Association clearly has plenty of that.