

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **GOREY**  
County : **WEXFORD**  
Category : **D**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 21-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	22
The Built Environment	40	32	30
Landscaping	40	25	21
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	11	10
Litter Control	40	25	26
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	22
General Impression	10	5	5
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>166</b>

## **Gorey, County Wexford**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Gorey is a busy, bustling centre with a very high volume of transit traffic. Thank you for the useful map of the town which was of assistance during the adjudication. While much continues to need attention, this was a year of considerable advancement in a number of categories. Because of the size of the centre, clearly it will be necessary to engage and motivate significant members of the general population if progress and advancement is to continue.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The visually very important 1798 cross at the top of town provides an ideal opportunity for a dramatic and spectacular presentation, which, might, be designed by the UDC and/or subsequently maintained by the local residents. The district hospital was well presented, as was the old school at Christchurch (1834). The Post Office was colourful with well-filled planters. The small-scale Wesley Chapel (1834) is a significant structure. The infill offices of O'Gorman, Solicitors and Brennan, Chartered Accountants, were well presented. The Market House and Clock Tower are imposing elements in the busy Main Street while in Esmond Street Mackey's Pharmacy was particularly well presented. The restrained, but very appropriate, painting of Fowler Bar was well set off by the colourful paintings in the windows. At the end of Rafter Street, the large building closing the view from Main Street, seems to be unused or run down. Because of its visual importance, attention is directed to this imposing structure.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The town park was exceptionally well presented. The tree planting on Main Street was noted while the planting on the Dublin Road to the bridge and beyond was of a very high order. The grotto and related area on the Courtown Road was well presented. In this area the multi-coloured fencing at Hughie Doyle caught the eye. Incidental grassed areas, where they arise, for example at the junction of Wexford Street and St Michael's Road provide opportunities for enhanced landscaping. In the same sense the delightfully laid out Avenue has not been fully developed or exploited.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The Tidy Towns Programme now places great emphasis on the development of appropriately sized wildlife habitats within centres. A successful programme in this regard can

best be achieved when associated with a structured programme of community education. Thus it is recommended that the matter be discussed with Dúchas – The Heritage Service whose wildlife rangers are a major asset in this regard. Alternatively, and in addition, the services of a locally based wildlife/Birds Ireland enthusiast can be significant.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

The existence of litter continues to be a difficulty and the provision of additional litter bins is a priority. The securing of commercial sponsorship for litter bins has proved possible in other centres and the practise is recommended for Gorey. Surprisingly, there were disappointing levels of litter in the St Michael's Church area and grounds.

## **TIDINESS**

The high volume of traffic is, itself, intrusive and working against a sense of order and neatness within the Main Street area. We allowed for the work in progress at the Little Theatre area and, at other locations, throughout the large centre. Attention is directed to minor items, particularly the small-scale, broken, horizontal bars at the Michael Street and Wexford Street junction which have been referred to in previous reports.

Church Lane and Market Street are improved by the recent demolition and removals while weed growth between the roads and pavements in North Parade and Pearse Street continue to be a factor. Overgrown verges, for example, at the Orchard, also need attention and this could, with advantage, be seen as a matter for the local residents in addition to the town authorities.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The town is marked by a number of delightfully presented private houses which are well maintained and feature attractive gardens and foreground. The development of the town has had an impact on some estates, for example at the Sean Liosean Estate the road surface has collapsed under the extensive traffic generated by the sizeable expansion to the estate. As very significant additional houses are being built throughout the town, the impact on road surfaces needs attention. The cul-de-sacs, off The Avenue were very well presented. Individual houses on Esmonde Street were colourful and well presented but the standard was not uniform throughout this interesting street. Where necessary, the replacement of trees is to be encouraged.

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

The high volume of traffic is clearly impacting on the road

surface at a number of locations within Gorey. The Avenue has suffered considerably in this regard while weed and spoil is a difficulty at the Gratten Street/Bunclody Road approach. Major building works are in progress on the slip road from the Dublin Road rail bridge to Courtown via Hazelwood. As a consequence, currently the road surface is very damaged. It is important that the street/road line be restored when the major building works have been completed. A number of trees appear to have died on the Courtown Road and should be replaced as soon as possible.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Gorey continues to be a major centre in North Wexford, attracting large volumes of often transit traffic and visitors. Individual shop-keepers and mercantile premises have been well presented and, apart from traffic, there is no single intractable difficulty to be overcome. Rather, it is a question of getting more people to join in the general effort following which the centre will continue its advance in the Tidy Towns programme.