

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **NEW ROSS**
County : **WEXFORD**
Category : **E**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 20-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	27
The Built Environment	40	26	25
Landscaping	40	28	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	17
Litter Control	40	24	21
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	20	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	24
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	190	182

New Ross, Wexford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

A very pleasantly presented historic settlement, New Ross has utilised fully its location beside the River Barrow. Hanging baskets, notably on the lamp standards on Quay Street and by the riverfront car park area were particularly pleasing. The provision of the new handicapped access at town hall is applauded. Individual, small-scale streetscape scenes were a delight, particularly Brendan O'Sullivan and the tailor's shop on Mary Street. We welcomed the provision, at many locations throughout the town, of the 1798 explanatory plaques. The surviving elements of the town wall and gates were not, generally, presented as well as one would hope. A number of derelict buildings, for example, opposite William Street and the abandoned cinema detracted somewhat. The former post office building, because of its location and current condition, is unfortunate and urgent remedial treatment is required.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

New Ross retains much of its medieval character and especially enjoying the small scale, shop fronts that have been, sadly, lost to other centres. It is noted with regret that a number of public buildings jar with the overall pleasing presentations. The library is in urgent need of repainting while the Garda Station, with its single, lone planter, sparsely filled, was somewhat tatty. We applaud the replacement of some windows in the courthouse building but other windows and its sign are in urgent need of repainting and appropriate refurbishment.

The Credit Union was an imposing building as is the Post Office in Charles Street. The fine developments at Houghton's Hospital are a delight while the small-scale Bailey's (59 South Street) was a delight. The splendidly painted New Ross Commercial Club and nearby Auto factors were strong, positive elements among an overall pleasing presentation.

LANDSCAPING

The landscaping, both public, communal and private garden are marked by many individual fine presentations. The grounds of St Mary's and Michael's Church were a joy as was the entrance area to St Stephen's Churchyard. The grassed areas and tree planting on the Waterford Road approach were excellent with a number of individual gardens on the by-pass and Kilkenny Road being exceptional. Sadly, the Youth Centre grounds needed urgent attention while the frontage to the ESB area did not

appropriately reflect this national company.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The river itself, and its extensive grassed front, the sizeable car park and incidental grassed areas throughout the centre offer many opportunities for wildlife habitats. The creation of a structured programme of development, coupled with an information programme is earnestly recommended and suitable assistance is readily available from the Wildlife ranger attached to Dúchas – The Heritage Service.

LITTER CONTROL

For a town of its size, New Ross generally does not have a widespread litter problem. Indeed, the opposite is the reality. Litter, where it existed, tended to be unusually concentrated. Perhaps the worst example was around the swimming pool and library area particularly embedded in shrub beds. An hour or two's work by a committed group would solve this problem. Additional litterbins would clearly be advantageous in other places, notably, the car park on the Kilkenny Road approach, in the swimming pool area, while the entrance area to Longstone Drive also requires similar treatment.

TIDINESS

Broadly, the comments in last year's report continue to apply. There has been an improvement in the neatness of road kerbs and verges. They showed signs of recent sweeping, which was most agreeable on the day of adjudication. The rusty level crossing barriers could surely now be removed on the Waterford approach road. Quite a number of commercial signs looked tired and must be reckoned to be counter productive. We are disappointed to note the surprisingly poor signage for the exciting Dunbrody project. Large-scale industrial areas present particular difficulties which might be improved by simply power-hosing. We welcome the Recycling For Life units at the old bridge, the library area and close to St Stephen's Cemetery. The impressive Scout Hall (1841) would benefit materially if it were simply washed, particularly at the base of its wall. We noted that the Garda sign at the Three Bullet Gate area is still pointing in the wrong direction.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

New Ross has an extensive array of very well presented houses both individual and as part of housing estates. A particular joy is the traditional terrace on Schoolhouse Row while the Rosbercon Cottage in this same area is an absolute delight. Some small-scale houses on the Thomastown Road area were attractive and well presented. The new estate, Hillview Close, has not yet established that

sense of involvement among the residents to make for a better individual presentation of their gardens. This has been achieved very largely in Tower Grove and Castlemoyle Heights.

The established terrace between Three Bullet Gate and Houghton's Hospital has achieved and continue to maintain high standards. The extent of weeds at the entrance to River View detracts materially from the fine range of planting undertaken there. The communal grassed areas in South Knock were very well presented. The overall high presentation was diminished somewhat by the small number of houses which have not painted their front facing wall. Parkfield Estate has a number of delightful, individual house and garden presentations.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The signage for the Slí na Sláinte was colourful and well presented. Work is in progress on extensive new traffic alignment installations at Three Bullet Gate. The fine entrance area from Wexford is set-off well by extensive planting. The large-scale commercial premises in general were well presented, some undergoing renovations on the day of adjudication. Signage at the Ring Road and the by-pass area do need refreshing. The town centre sign here is totally obscured by accumulated dust and dirt. The potentially very imposing viewing points on the Kilkenny Road are now totally overgrown and one or more of the four points should, with advantage, be opened up again to provide access to the splendid vista available from this elevated viewing point. The road surface, in locations, for example, Schoolhouse Road is materially below par.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

New Ross, is projecting a very favourable first impression to its many visitors. Use of hanging baskets, carefully swept verges and kerbs and extensive planting, all contribute to a sense of welcome. Of course, material difficulties remain and these may be assisted by the updating of your Basis for a Strategic Tidy Towns Plan, first published in February 1999. The efforts you are making are tangible and beneficial and all associated with the entry are encouraged to continue their good works.