

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BRAY**
County : **WICKLOW**
Category : **F**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 18-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	42	40
The Built Environment	40	32	31
Landscaping	40	29	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	19
Litter Control	40	29	30
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	28
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	223	220

Bray, County Wicklow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENT APPROACH

The material submitted with the application form is very impressive and shows a very positive approach to the development of Bray. Consultation with the public bodies and business associations, as well as residents associations, all helps to achieve consistent effort and results. The changing patterns of roadways, residential building and new businesses results in a very complex requirement and meeting those requirements, while retaining the best character of Bray, is an important challenge.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Town Hall is a landmark and this building looks very well. Bray possesses many impressive residential buildings. Churches also contribute to the character of the town. The well structured division of Bray into the sea front areas, main street business, with the residential premises in-between, makes for a very attractive layout. Shop fronts and signage on the main street are very diverse and it would be good if there was some form of unity. This is something which could be done over a number of years.

New landscaping opportunities offered by roadway developments, such as roundabouts and associated grass verges, are being well managed. The sponsorship of the roundabouts is a good idea. The landscaping at the Shankill roundabout is in an interesting style. The large green area to the front of the premises "Homelands" is well maintained and a welcome green space. The post and wire fence to the roadside is unattractive as it has become damaged. Tree planting opportunities are available along the road frontage. The Peoples' park is an attractive green space of exceptional length. Some extra tree planting would be welcome here. The seafront green areas are well maintained. A little more interest could be added with the introduction of wind and salt resistant trees and shrubs. The harbour area is well treated. The area by the railway bridge approaching the harbour on Seapoint Road is very pleasant. Tree planting at the end of the adjacent housing estate by the river is a good idea although the approach to this from the estate could be tidied up. Individual gardens play a very significant part in the overall landscape and great credit is due to those who invest time and effort in their gardens. The small green at Connolly square is interesting and shows the value of green space.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The sight of many people feeding a multitude of swans by the harbour was very pleasant. The riverside walk offers interesting wildlife opportunities. Information freely

accessible about the range of plants and animals likely to be seen would be helpful. The Bray head walk offers further potential for observation and this is a great asset to the town as well as the obvious seashore. Projects aimed at developing young peoples' appreciation of nature and wild life is very desirable.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter is always a challenge in a town the size of Bray. There are many litter bins yet there is evidence of poor litter control in places. Some places where litter was particularly bad: at the entrance to the river walk at Seapoint Road just below the Royal hotel, in the passageway to the carpark from the main street beside Dixons and at the railings of the church opposite the Royal Hotel.

TIDINESS

Improvements by the railway station area are welcome but poor weed and litter control in the general vicinity detracts considerably. Carparking is obviously a major difficulty. Remarks about shop fronts and signs made above apply here.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Bray has a variety of housing types, both new and old. New estates frequently have open green space and usually tree planting opportunities exist in such cases. It is very important that tree planting is done to ensure that future generations will have them to enjoy. As many gardens cannot accommodate large type trees, the open spaces offer the ideal opportunity. The garden competition and advice is excellent. The value that individual homeowners contribute by maintaining their residence will contribute greatly to the overall appearance of a town.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The old main Wicklow road by the Dargle has become a little tired and rejuvenation would be helpful. The Killarney Road entrance was well presented and gives a pleasant entrance to Bray. Roundabouts and new road complexes coming from the main Wicklow road are well treated. The streets within Bray off Quinsboro Road are nicely laid out and the mature trees add great character. The one way arrangement appears to work well.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Bray has the great assets of seashore, Bray Head walk and harbour area. New pressures of traffic, housing and business developments challenge Bray to cope with these changing times and there is every appearance that Bray will respond well.