

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Blackwater**

Ref: **422**

County: **Wexford**

Mark: **231**

Category: **B**

Date: **06/08/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	35
The Built Environment	40	31	31
Landscaping	40	32	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	21
Litter Control	40	34	35
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	31
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	231	229

Overall Developmental Approach:

Blackwater Tidy Town's Committee is midway through its 5 year Development Plan. You should put a time scale against achieving your objectives, in order to make your progress clear to both yourselves and the adjudicators. You have put a lot of emphasis on landscaping, in particular ornamental landscaping. Permanent planting and tree planting are most important in order to provide year round effect and be of benefit for years to come. The replacement of the gates is a good idea.

The Built Environment:

The bridge is a central feature in the village. In terms of commercial premises, Centra was very fresh, as was Londis. Avoca Blue was well maintained with attractive landscaped entrance area. Perhaps tree planting could be considered in this location. The national school was fine and its well maintained grounds and attractive stone boundary wall was admired. The Garda Station was fresh and the Blackwater Lodge Hotel was well presented. Whelan's is an attractive traditional front which has its original windows upstairs. The car park area, with its overhanging trees, was admired. Cracks were apparent to the boundary and should be repaired before next year's competition. The church is a charming traditional Irish country one. The adjacent hall should be painted before next year.

Landscaping:

The ongoing tree planting throughout village is admirable. The gardens-Fox's, '98 Memorial Garden, and Central Village Garden were all admired and are fine assets to the village. The former, however, will need attention to its picnic table, which needed revarnishing. The permanent planting with red hot pokers, and trees to the estate opposite the church was admired although, its boundary wall should be painted before next year. Some tree planting could be considered at the church car park in order to soften its appearance. A laneway with daisies on Church Road was admired.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The bird-feeding in Fox's Garden is commendable. The nesting boxes around the village are a fine initiative as is the cleaning of riverside areas. The environmental hedge- strimming is to be applauded. The development of a bog garden, by extending Fox's Garden, will be a marvellous asset.

Litter Control:

Litter control was generally quite good. However, a lot of litter was evident at directional signs on the Curracloe Road and a few more papers were evident further along this road. The involvement of the local schoolchildren is laudable.

Tidiness:

The problems associated with the sand lorries is unfortunate. Hopefully some resolution can be reached in this regard. Your work in cleaning the riverbank by grotto is a wonderful initiative, especially the planting of willows for a FAS basketry project. The roofless cottage on the Kilmuckridge side of the village looked unfortunate. The wall of the GAA pitch should be painted before next year's competition. A single example of flyposting was evident. A garage / outbuilding opposite "the Cottage" made a bad impression. The gates in this location needed painting, as did the miniature cottage by the bridge. The ballustrade to Corrigan's car park should be painted before next year.

Residential Areas:

It was pleasing to note your ongoing interest in new housing developments in the village and their landscaping. An attractive housing estate on the Kilmuckridge Road with montbretia at the entrance must look quite magnificent when in full bloom. The thatched shell cottage is quite charming. The thatched Easter Cottage was also quite charming, with nasturtiums and sweet williams in an adjacent bed. A new estate was admired as it is quite in keeping with the village's character. The hanging baskets, hollyhocks and easter lilies in a cottage garden opposite Whelan's looked well.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

On the Kilmuckridge Road, great efforts were evident at the village nameplate signs. The grass verges on this road were well maintained. Broken directional signs on the Kilmuckridge Road near the caravan park looked unsightly. On the Curracloe Road, the grassy banks, stone walls and fuchsia were admired. The verges were well maintained. The hedgerows and banks appeared somewhat overgrown, however. Ongoing work was taking place on the Enniscorthy Road. The numerous signs at the cross roads mentioned in last year's report were still a problem.

General Impression:

Blackwater is an attractive Wexford village that continues to perform well in the competition.

Second Round Adjudication:

Blackwater has grown considerably since this adjudicator was last in the village. Much of the new development seems appropriate but it creates all the more to be maintained. The general standard of maintenance throughout the village varied considerably from the exceptional to the neglected. Shabby walls, weedy yards and litter all were evident in the village centre. Weeds in corners here and there in prominent locations are indicative of lack of a coordinated maintenance plan. It should be remembered that the initial impression of a village is gained on the approach and to this avail the seemingly neglected appearance of the GAA park entrance affected the Wexford approach similarly the raw corner on the Enniscorthy approach. On the other hand, a freshly painted house with sun flowers on the Gorey approach was admired. Public toilets and road signs ought to be better maintained. Once again landscaping seemed to be your strong point.