

# Tidy Towns Competition 2003

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Foulksmills**

Ref: **362**

County: **Wexford**

Mark: **222**

Category: **A**

Date: **15/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	33
The Built Environment	40	31	31
Landscaping	40	35	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	19
Litter Control	40	32	30
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>219</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

The adjudicator was pleased to note that you have received an amenity grant from Wexford County Council and that you have a FAS scheme in operation in the village. Your annual duck race certainly sounds very interesting! The work you have done in relation to the very prominent oak tree at the crossroads is to be commended. The additional material you submitted should be turned into a work programme format. Set dates i.e. years in which you intend to achieve your various aims. For future reference, do ensure that buildings that were originally meant to be rendered do not have their plaster removed to reveal the stonework beneath. This can cause damage to the buildings as well as being incorrect from a conservation point of view. It was always intended that these vernacular buildings would be covered with plaster.

### The Built Environment:

Both White's Bar and the Oak Tree were fine, although the projecting plastic signs should be removed, while the Guinness advertisement on the latter needs repainting and Christmas decorations were still in place. The garage / shop looked well, with hanging baskets decorating the wall. Harpur's Post Office was fine and the magnificent stone mill buildings were greatly admired.

### Landscaping:

The tree at the crossroads is in a very prominent location and has its own significance, as you have correctly pointed out. The pump was simply presented, surrounded as it was by whitewashed walls. An attractive planted area near the post office is a most attractive incidental landscaped space. This is the sort of initiative that should be repeated throughout the village. The park by the Corock River looked most attractive and was extremely well maintained. Your work in continuing to plant new trees is highly commended. Another landscaped area with lupins and daisies opposite the garage was admired.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

Foulksmills is indeed fortunate in this regard, with its close proximity to some magnificent woodland and riverside areas. The 1798 walk is certainly an important and interesting initiative. The riverside park was beautifully maintained and the splash of colour created by the snap dragons on the stone wall looked quite charming. Your work encouraging wildlife nesting boxes and sowing native wild flowers is to be commended. Perhaps you could incorporate a nature walk outlining wildlife habitats in your area with local walks. Do consult a local wildlife expert in this regard.

### **Litter Control:**

The standard of litter control on the day was extremely good, with very little being apparent in the village. However one or two papers were noted by the garage and to the phone box area opposite. Perhaps you should give consideration to the provision of more litter bins.

### **Tidiness:**

On the New Ross side of the village, weeds had been sprayed but the dead weeds had yet to be removed. This adjudicator is in agreement with the comments made by the last year's adjudicator in relation to yard areas. These should be screened from public view. The Co-op makes a good effort with its trees and planting, but additional planting in this location would be welcome. The derelict cottage is most charming and would be a marvelous asset to the village if restored to its former glory.

### **Residential Areas:**

Houses within the village centre and along approach roads were generally well maintained.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The attractive stone walls and well cut verges on the Wellingtonbridge Road make this an attractive approach to the village. The stream / ditch with foxgloves and other planting looked most attractive. The New Ross Road was also well maintained. The road by the mill is another attractive approach to the village with its overhanging trees and stone mill buildings. It appeared somewhat neglected in comparison to the others.

### **General Impression:**

Foulksmills is an attractive village with a community that obviously cares about both its future and present condition. Good luck with your future work in and around this attractive location.