

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Gorey**

Ref: **211**

County: **Wexford**

Mark: **190**

Category: **D**

Date: **05/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	26
The Built Environment	40	35	34
Landscaping	40	27	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	10	10
Litter Control	40	26	27
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	16	16
General Impression	10	7	5
TOTAL MARK	300	190	183

Overall Developmental Approach:

The adjudicator was pleased to note that you had hired a consultant, in order to prepare a five year plan for your town's future development. The committee has been formed from a large number of pillars of the local community including the Chamber of Commerce, Dúchas, the local tourism authority, schools, Town and County Councils - the combined expertise will pay obvious dividends. Your questionnaire "What Gorey needs most", with its list of numbered priorities is an excellent idea - it covers each aspect of the competition, from litter to shop fronts, wildlife, landscaping etc. Many thanks for your map which was most useful on adjudication day. Gorey Tidy Towns Committee has a very good approach to this category of the competition. It is obviously a confident and enthusiastic body.

The Built Environment:

The very bright and cheerful shops and shop fronts along the main streets of the town give an excellent first impression to the passer-by. Of particular note were Joanne's Coffee Shop on the corner of Rafter Street and Poole's. There are one or two flaky fronts, but for the most part standards are maintained. Gorey is fortunate to have a number of attractive traditional shop fronts such as French's and Browne's, with its elaborate plasterwork. There are still one or two plastic signs which should be replaced with ones of a more traditional timber variety, but, generally, the main streets of the town are unblighted by plastic signage. Christchurch Old School is an attractive stone and brick facade and the District Hospital diagonally opposite, with its curved brick wings, is

another charming asset to the town. The Garda Station looked extremely fresh on the day.

Landscaping:

The picnic area, with its overhanging trees, on the Wexford Road was well maintained. The magnificent grounds of the hospital were greatly admired. The attractive lime trees, marching down the coast road to Wexford, are a charming asset to the town. The trees along Main Street create a most attractive effect. A number of the shopfronts had contributed to this aspect of the competition by means of colourful displays of hanging baskets, for example, the Credit Union.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The adjudicator would like to reiterate the comments in last year's report i.e. a more co-ordinated effort is called for, under this category of the competition. Do consult local experts in this regard, and try to involve the local school children in drawing up a record and accompanying map of the wildlife in their locality.

Litter Control:

Litter control was generally quite good on the day, given the size of the town and its busy nature. However, there were a number of problem areas, i.e. on the footpath on the Dublin Road and a light scattering along the main streets of the town. Your work in this regard, particularly in relation to litter pick-ups and the practical support of Wexford County Council, regarding providing rubber gloves and plastic bags is a most positive response to this countrywide problem.

Tidiness:

Generally the town had quite a neat and ordered appearance, particular attention appeared to have been given to the rear areas and alleyways. A number of grubby boundary walls, such as the wall of the car park of the Coach House, created a rather negative impression. Fly posting and hoardings on approach roads give these a rather cluttered appearance and should be discouraged. An empty site beside the hospital looked somewhat neglected.

Residential Areas:

Individual houses, both along the main streets and on approach roads to the town were extremely well maintained and obviously well cared for. Of particular note, were the attractive gardens opposite Christchurch Old School. In relation to housing estates, Charlotte Close was beautifully maintained. However Charlotte Grove, adjacent, appeared somewhat neglected and overgrown in its sloped open spaces, though these looked to have been maintained up until quite recently.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

There are far too many advertising hoardings on approach roads. These should be discouraged, as they give rather a negative impression to the visitor. The Dublin Road was fine, although a grubby directional sign for Courtown Harbour created a bad impression. Traffic congestion is a distinct problem and one that will need to be tackled. The Wexford Road was not as well maintained as the road to the Dublin side of the town - the grass verges had been roughly cut but the dead grass had yet to be removed and this had revealed evidence of litter which may have been there for some time. Street furniture was generally well maintained, although the benches in front of the hospital appeared somewhat flaky and the nearby post box should be painted before next year's competition.

General Impression:

Gorey is an extremely busy and vibrant town on the heavily trafficked main Dublin Wexford N11 road.

It created a very favourable impression on first adjudication day.