

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **New Ross**

Ref: **203**

County: **Wexford**

Mark: **196**

Category: **D**

Date: **13/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	28
The Built Environment	40	28	27
Landscaping	40	28	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	26	25
Tidiness	20	14	15
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	196	195

Overall Developmental Approach:

It was with great disappointment that the adjudicator read that you feel you have little or no support from the local community. Do endeavour to garner as much support as you can from local businesses and residents. The adjudicator feels that your idea of not entering the competition would probably have a more negative than positive affect than expected. New Ross is indeed an historical town and should be promoted as such. Enniscorthy has an historical trail which is one that is extremely interesting and a possible example for you to adopt. We note your comments in relation to the timing of judging of the competition. Unfortunately, there is an extremely tight timeframe involved in the organisation and implementation of judging such a large number of entries, as we are sure you will appreciate. Towns should look well year round and not be dependant solely on the merely cosmetic effects of floral displays!

The Built Environment:

It was disappointing to note that there was a similar level of dereliction to that seen last year. There are large numbers of warehouses and industrial premises, some of which contribute well to the urban environment and some which could do more. In terms of both public and commercial premises in the town centre the standard was reasonably good. The Dunbrody Inn was very fresh on the quay side and the post office on Charles Street is quite charming. Kennedy's solicitors is a traditional Irish shopfront, which retains its original Irish name above the shopfront. This would be magnificent if restored to its former glory. Kathleen's Hair Studio was bright and cheerful. James

Byrne's is another traditional front which would look marvelous if sanded down and repainted. The Royal Hotel looked extremely fresh and simply presented. The modern tourist information centre on the quay side looked extremely well. The Augustinian church was admired, with its attractive approach via a stepped courtyard. The nearby Church of Ireland church was also attractive.

Landscaping:

It does seem rather a shame that the quayside by the tourist office has become merely a car park area. Surely this is an area that is crying out to become an amenity area by the riverside? On the day, it could be seen that people used this location as a viewing spot and picnic area, despite its less than ideal condition for this purpose. Broken benches were noted in the picnic area on the Enniscorthy Road. The park area between the Augustinian church and the Church of Ireland church appeared quite overgrown and has a broken bench. This is an aspect of the competition which is important and, therefore, needs more consideration.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Obviously your High Hill project is one that should receive as much of your enthusiasm as possible. New Ross is in an ideal location, situated as it is, next to the River Barrow, and well paced do well in this aspect of the competition.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day appeared to be somewhat better than it was last year. Some litter was noted on the Enniscorthy Road, however, and a light scattering was visible along the main streets of the town. The odd paper was also spotted on the Rosslare Road.

Tidiness:

Advertising hoardings on approach roads create an extremely bad impression and should be discouraged. It was disappointing to note that street furniture was in bad condition - there were rather a large number of broken and flaky benches. The large numbers of vacant and derelict sites create a rather bad impression. Weed control was a problem at the car park area adjacent to the garden centre on the Rosslare Road. An extremely rusty tin roof to a warehouse-type building opposite the tourist office looked unfortunate and should be repainted up in a traditional red colour. There are a large number of attractive laneways and alleyways throughout the town that could be regenerated - restaurants, cafes and small shops would be ideally suited to this sort of location. The adjudicator noticed that a number of areas had been ear-marked for development under an urban renewal incentive i.e. areas beside the Royal Hotel, with its stepped street.

Residential Areas:

The adjudicator would agree with last year's adjudicator in relation to promoting a competition for this category of the competition. These could be divided up into a number of different categories, such as terraced houses and housing estates. An attractive side street with stepped terraced housing off Mary Street was admired for its colourful display of hanging baskets.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

These did not seem to be as well maintained as last year. Verges could have been maintained to a higher standard. The charming post box beside the Royal Hotel was admired and should be freshened up before next year's competition. Other items of street furniture, such as benches, have been mentioned elsewhere in this report. Generally, the centre of the town looked well cared for, but its rear areas and the streets as they extend further from the centre seem somewhat neglected.

General Impression:

New Ross is an attractive town which, unfortunately, looks quite neglected at the moment. You should endeavour to introduce more colour into your streetscapes. The adjudicator wishes you all the best in relation to fostering a better relationship with the local community and businesses, as this will be essential in your work. It was good to note the strong use of the Irish language in the shopfronts.