

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Taghmon**

Ref: **526**

County: **Wexford**

Mark: **174**

Category: **B**

Date: **15/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	
The Built Environment	40	28	
Landscaping	40	27	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	
Litter Control	40	20	
Tidiness	20	10	
Residential Areas	30	19	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	
General Impression	10	6	
TOTAL MARK	300	174	

Overall Developmental Approach:

Taghmon is very welcome to the competition in this, your first year of entry. It is an attractive village with an unusual and charming village centre. Do ensure, for next year's competition, that you formulate a three to five year work-programme or plan in which your objectives for the future are outlined and a timetable for their implementation established. This document need only be two or three pages long, but it will be invaluable, both to you and the adjudicators, in measuring your progress over the coming years.

The Built Environment:

Public buildings, such as the stone church, were well maintained, as was the school and grounds with its ogham stone feature. The Church of Ireland church looked extremely well. In terms of commercial premises the pharmacy, the hardware shop, the clothes shop and Londis were all extremely fresh - although the latter still sported some unseasonal Christmas decorations! Do ensure when considering presentation that you don't neglect out-buildings, sheds, rear areas or boundary walls.

Landscaping:

The attractive stone beds on approach roads were greatly admired, as was the gravelled areas at the junction of two roads with its celtic cross. Do ensure that you keep this area as weed-free as possible. The junction of the two roads above the school is ripe for a landscaping proposal. Perhaps you could consider opening up the castle in order that it is accessible to the general public. Sheds were noted at the base - these are in need of some attention. Who owns this building? Would it be possible to make approaches to them in order to achieve this objective?

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your plans to create a wildlife area in the millennium park were noted and appreciated. Approach a local wildlife expert in order to identify areas of wildlife interest in your locality and organise a programme of maintenance of existing habitats.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day could have been better. A lot of litter was evident along the main streets of the town. Particular bad spots of note were those opposite the housing estate and at the school car park.

Tidiness:

The standard in this category of the competition could also have been higher. A derelict building with tin roof created a bad impression - a mere coat of paint would make an immense difference to its appearance. There are a number of neglected buildings throughout the town, which look unfortunate. In terms of street furniture, there are a number of broken benches, which should be repaired and / or replaced. The recycling bins were overflowing on adjudication day. This is an area which would perhaps benefit from screening from public view.

Residential Areas:

A whitewashed cottage on the Foulksmills Road looked well, although its tin roof should be re-painted in a traditional red colour. Weeds at kerbsides on Monastery Avenue created a bad impression. The houses in the estate were generally fine and its raised open space area was admired. An attractive garden with grassy banks and jaunty daisies on top were admired. A number of the houses on Stream Street should be maintained to a higher standard. Those of Castlecourt looked well.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

This category of the competition was good. The well maintained verges and granite welcome sign on the Foulksmills Road were admired. Weeds were apparent at the kerbsides on the Adamstown Road, however. Generally, approach roads were well maintained, with their attractive stone raised beds. A directional sign seemed quite flaky on the Wexford Road and should be repainted. Road surfaces were not in good condition.

General Impression:

Taghmon is an interesting centre with a wealth of history. It made a good entry to the competition in this its first year. Congratulations to all concerned.