

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Blackwater**

Ref: **383**

County: **Wexford**

Mark: **234**

Category: **B**

Date: **17/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	35
The Built Environment	40	31	31
Landscaping	40	32	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	22
Litter Control	40	35	34
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	31
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	234	231

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you indeed for all the information sent with your entry form and for the copy of your plan. You did not, however, send the map of the village showing where new projects have taken place. Perhaps you will remember this for next year as it makes it so much easier for the Adjudicator to have sight of them. It is gratifying to read that you continue to have the support of Wexford County Council, St. Brigid's National School and indeed your community for your efforts. Your plan would appear to be all embracing and you should try to identify what you can do in the long and short term within your physical and financial resources. Other centres are adopting this strategy with success. It is a mistake to try to achieve too much in any given year and sometimes this can only lead to frustration. You received an in-depth report from last year's Adjudicator. The following therefore is by way of comment on perceived further progress to date and should be read in tandem with last year's report.

The Built Environment:

Blackwater is well endowed with many fine public buildings - Bridge, School, Garda Station, Hotel, Church, '98 Memorial Garden and Central Village Garden, all of which were visited on adjudication day. They are all being well maintained and were nicely presented. The wall of the GAA pitch has been painted since last year and looks very nice. Commercial premises throughout the village looked well and car parks are being kept in a tidy condition.

Landscaping:

Trees and shrubs planted in the past are now maturing very nicely and landscaping in general throughout the village is being well maintained. Containerised planting, tubs of flowers and hanging baskets also added greatly to the appearance of the village and created a very nice atmosphere. The '98 Memorial Garden and the Village Garden are very nice. The School grounds looked very well also. Landscaping is a strong point in your Tidy Towns effort but in hot weather needs constant maintenance.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your comments under this heading are noted, and what you have done to date is commendable. Perhaps, however, you might consider getting your school children involved further in your Tidy Towns effort by providing a specific project in the schools grounds, i.e. nesting boxes and feeding tables with perhaps a wildlife board showing what can be seen locally. The river area of course would make an ideal centre for a wildlife project. Consider consulting with someone locally who may be knowledgeable on this subject or get in touch with Duchas or its successor.

Litter Control:

Parts of Blackwater were litter free on adjudication day. Unfortunately an amount of litter had been allowed to get into the water in the area of the Bridge and looked very unsightly. It is a pity that this should happen as it took away from an otherwise litter-free situation. This aspect of the competition is vitally important and needs constant monitoring.

Tidiness:

In general, the village was presented in a neat and tidy manner. There is some building work going on which leads to a certain amount of untidiness, but this will pass and has been allowed for in the adjudication. Street cleaning was in progress on adjudication day. While some of the comments made by last year's Adjudicator under this heading are still applicable, nevertheless, all the indications are that your community is very interested and sincere in the protection of the environment and are to be congratulated on it.

Residential Areas:

The many new housing estates in Blackwater are being well maintained with their open spaces being nicely presented. These and individual houses throughout the village looked extremely well. Many had gardens in full bloom on adjudication day which was lovely to see. This type of effort adds considerably to the work being carried out by your Tidy Towns Committee and they are to be congratulated on it. If you have not already done so, you should form Residents Associations in these new estates and invite them on to your committee. In time perhaps you might run a series of friendly competitions amongst them which, in other centres, has had the effect of raising standards even higher.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approach roads in general were nicely presented particularly the one from Enniscorthy. Grass verges are being well maintained. While many of the comments in last year's report are still applicable, nevertheless, there appears to have been an improvement under this heading. Road surfaces throughout the village were only adequate and perhaps this is a matter you could discuss with Wexford County Council. Pathways appear to be well maintained.

General Impression:

Blackwater is a lovely village with a very nice atmosphere. Your development strategy is good and further progress will be gained through planning carefully and attention to detail. The village has reached very high mark in the competition which is due to very hard work which has been put in over the years. Continue to plan and to maintain what you already have and keep up the good work.