

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Bunclody**

Ref: **719**

County: **Wexford**

Mark: **211**

Category: **C**

Date: **23/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	31
The Built Environment	40	33	33
Landscaping	40	28	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	25	23
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	26	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>208</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for the information sent with the entry form which was most useful on adjudication day. It is gratifying to read that you continue to have the support of your local community and, it is assumed, Wexford County Council for your efforts. For a town of its size your committee of six is very small and would need to be expanded considerably if the perceived amount of work to be done in Bunclody is to be carried out. As mentioned in previous reports, the Adjudicator feels that initially you should carry out a survey of the town and try to identify what environmental projects could be undertaken for its betterment. In this respect, your comments regarding the redevelopment of the Mall and the grant situation is noted. You should then endeavour to develop a 3/5 year plan identifying what work you can realistically carry out within your physical and financial resources on an annual basis. At that stage, perhaps you could call a public meeting to discuss the programme to which you could invite various agencies such as County Council, FAS, the local community representatives and representatives of your commercial operators. As mentioned last year, a map of the town showing where specific projects have taken place would be very useful and perhaps you might send the same with your entry form for 2005. You received an in-depth from the Adjudicator last year. 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:

An enormous amount of work is taking place in the area of the proposed Milrace Hotel which will be

a great addition to the town when completed. Bunclody has some very nice public buildings – Catholic Church, Church of Ireland Church, Garda Station, GAA Club, Health Centre and Schools but has also some dereliction which takes away somewhat from the overall appearance of the town. In this connection, Wexford County Council should be able to help as, under the Derelict Sites Act, they are empowered to approach the owners of these premises with a view to maintenance. St Aiden's Hall looks very nice and work on your walls (which are a nice feature of the town) was noted on adjudication day. The majority of commercial premises are being very well maintained. Others need refurbishment.

### **Landscaping:**

Part of your planning could be to identify further areas for landscaping throughout the town and its outskirts. Bunclody has quite a number of open spaces which would lend itself to this. The Mall area is, undoubtedly, the focal point of the town and is a lovely feature. The Market Square again looked well and where presented containerised planting, tubs of flowers, window boxes and hanging baskets created a very nice atmosphere around the town and all concerned are to be commended for it. As well as flowers do also try to identify areas where you could plant trees and shrubs which would give you some colour on an all year round basis. Bunclody has benefited from some lovely tree planting in the past. Trees planted today will be for the future and posterity will thank you for them.

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

You do not appear to have undertaken a project under this heading and, in this respect, the comments made in last years Adjudicator's report are still applicable. Perhaps initially you could get your schoolchildren involved in a simple project such as the provision of feeding tables and nesting boxes, perhaps in the School grounds or in some other suitable open space. It will prove to be a lovely attraction for both residents and visitors alike. Perhaps there is someone in the local area who is knowledgeable on the subject and could be of assistance to you. Otherwise consult with Duchas (or their successors) who will be glad to help.

### **Litter Control:**

Your comments regarding the purchase of new refuse bins is noted. Unfortunately on adjudication day, litter was to be seen in many areas – in the centre of the town, at the Public Toilets, on approach roads and in some of the car parks. This is indeed a pity and belies all your efforts in this respect. There is obviously a need for a major anti-litter campaign which perhaps, for example, your schoolchildren might help out with. This is an important part of the competition and has to be monitored regularly.

### **Tidiness:**

As mentioned, quite an amount of building is taking place around the town which creates an air of untidiness but this will pass and has been allowed for in the adjudication. In general, the town was reasonably well presented under this heading but many of the comments made in last year's report are still applicable. Part of your future planning could be the identification of problem areas in this respect which could include weed control, open storage, signposting, etc. The public toilets are very run down and need complete refurbishing.

### **Residential Areas:**

Bunclody has some lovely housing estates, many of which were visited on adjudication day. They are being well maintained and work on open spaces, in many cases, is to be admired. Individual houses also looked well. Bunclody has a lovely contrast of new housing and some very old cottages both terraced and individual. In general these are all being well maintained and both in estates and individually, lovely gardens were to be seen on adjudication day in full bloom which created a lovely

appearance around the town. This type of individual effort is very important in the competition. You cannot succeed without it. If you have not already done so you should try to organise Residence Associations throughout the town and invite them onto your committee. In other centres this has worked very successfully even to the extent of creating friendly rivalry amongst them through estate competitions, garden competitions etc.

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

Approach roads looked well, particularly from Enniscorthy and Carlow. Adjudication normally takes place from either the town nameplate signs or the speed limit signs whichever you opt for. Verges should be strimmed from there on in, but bear in mind the advice in the Tidy Towns Handbook regarding the preservation of wildflowers and wildlife habitat. Road surfaces throughout the town are being well maintained. Unfortunately part of the road from Carlow is very potholed and is badly in need of repair. Pathways are being well maintained also. In this respect, and in general, Wexford County Council are doing very good work in the town.

### **General Impression:**

The amount of traffic passing through Bunclody is obviously a problem. However the town has great potential in the competition and future success can be gained through planning and attention to detail particularly in the areas of Litter, Tidiness and the Built Environment. In the event of a plan being produced, do send a copy with the entry form next year so that the Adjudicator can have sight of it. In the meantime, do keep up the good work.