

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Foulksmills**

Ref: **146**

County: **Wexford**

Mark: **226**

Category: **A**

Date: **12/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	34
The Built Environment	40	31	31
Landscaping	40	35	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	19
Litter Control	40	33	32
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	27
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	226	222

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you indeed for all the information sent with the entry form and for the map which was most useful on adjudication day. Could it be suggested however that, for next year, you might indicate on the map specific projects which have been completed for 2005 so that the adjudicator can have sight of them. The continued involvement of Wexford County Council and FAS with your efforts is noted and great credit is due to them, your committee and your community for the work which is being carried out. However, further success in the competition will come about through careful planning and attention to detail and, in this connection, it is again recommended to you that you produce a 3/5 year plan setting out on an annual basis the projects which can be completed per year within your physical and financial resources. This is important as it is also a yardstick by which you can measure what progress you are making. Such a plan should be drawn up in conjunction with your local authority, FAS and obviously your community and, in the event, need not cost anything. You received an in-depth report from the adjudicator last year and comments under this heading are still somewhat applicable. The following are comments on perceived further progress this year and should be read in tandem with last year's report.

The Built Environment:

In general, commercial premises again looked well this year and reflect great credit on their owners. The Post Office looked very nice and the old mill building was presented in a neat and tidy manner. The pump is a nice feature and your additional lighting was noted.

Landscaping:

The park beside the Corock River is outstanding and is being well maintained. General landscaping throughout the village looks very well and creates a lovely atmosphere. As part of your planning, try to identify other areas where such landscaping could take place with particular reference to the planting of trees and shrubs which will give you some colour on an all year round basis. Your existing programme of tree planting is going very well and the trees are maturing nicely. Hanging baskets and tubs of flowers add greatly to the overall ambience of Foulksmills and great credit is due to the people concerned in providing them. The oak tree is indeed a feature of the village and should be preserved and maintained at all costs.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

It must be reiterated here how fortunate Foulksmills is in its close proximity to some lovely woodland and riverside areas and in this connection the riverside park is an outstanding feature with lovely open spaces, beautiful flowers and some very well maintained seating. The whole project is a most wonderful addition to the village and you should be very proud of it. Try to develop it further in terms of a wildlife project. Perhaps it would be possible, if they are not already there, to encourage ducks and swans to congregate on the river which would be a wonderful additional asset. As suggested last year, do consult a local wildlife expert in this regard.

Litter Control:

Extra litter bins were noticed, but it is agreed that the recycling bins are probably in the wrong location and should be moved if at all possible. On adjudication day, the village was litter free and great credit is due to all concerned in achieving this.

Tidiness:

The village was again presented in a very neat and tidy manner but visual open storage is still a problem.

Residential Areas:

Individual houses are being well maintained and some had some lovely gardens which were in full bloom on adjudication day which added greatly to the atmosphere of the village. The scaffolding on the derelict cottage would seem to indicate that some work is taking place there and perhaps we will see some improvement in that for next year. The lovely stone cottage beside it is exceptional as indeed is 'Mill Farm'.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Road surfaces are reasonably good and approach roads are well presented with evidence of hedge cutting and strimming to be seen on adjudication day. The appearance of approach roads is very important as they tend to set the tone for the rest of the village.

General Impression:

As a result of all the work carried out over a number of years, Foulksmills is looking very nice at the moment. As well as developing new projects you must also give important attention to maintenance and preservation. Great credit is due to all involved in your effort. Keep up the good work.

