

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Gorey**

Ref: **219**

County: **Wexford**

Mark: **201**

Category: **D**

Date: **16/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	30
The Built Environment	40	35	35
Landscaping	40	30	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	10
Litter Control	40	27	26
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	25	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	18	16
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	201	190

Overall Developmental Approach:

It is gratifying to read that your committee has the support of Gorey Town Council, Wexford County Council, Chamber of Commerce and the business and local community for your efforts the evidence of which was to be seen in Gorey on adjudication day. Thank you for all the information sent with the entry form and the map which was most useful. Perhaps for next year you might indicate on the map where actual projects have taken place for 2005 so that the adjudicator can more easily have sight of them. Your "Path to Progress" plan is a great idea. The exercise of setting targets and employing measurement is exactly what achieves success in the Tidy Towns Competition. It is a system which could very well be copied by other centres to their advantage. Well done to all concerned. You received an in-depth report 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:

Gorey is a very busy commercial town but, nevertheless, maintains a very high standard in terms of the condition of its commercial premises and its public buildings. Both Churches, Community School, Garda Baracks, Fire Station, the District Hospital and Christ Church old school were all presented in a very neat and tidy manner and are being well maintained. The 1798 memorial and cannon are a lovely feature. There is much building going on in Gorey at the moment both in terms of houses and commercial premises which has led to some untidiness but this will pass and has been

allowed for in the adjudication. Some dereliction was noted but you have indicated that this will be handled by Wexford County Council. Let us hope, in this respect, for a better situation next year.

Landscaping:

Where presented, landscaping looked very well. The town park with its children's playground and wooden seating is being very well maintained and throughout the town there is ample evidence of flowers in containers, ivy clad buildings, hanging baskets and, needless to say, shrubs and trees. A tree lined Avenue and Main Street are very attractive. More thought should be given to the planting of trees and shrubs which will give some colour on an all year round basis. Goreys forefathers are to be thanked for the wonderful vista which the present crops of trees presents. The Grotto at Tesco's is a lovely addition to the Courtown Road and the grounds of the District Hospital is to be admired. Window boxes, hanging baskets and tubs provided by commercial premises adds greatly to the atmosphere of Gorey.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your negotiations with the ISPCA are noted and, if that project comes off, it will be a great addition to Gorey under this heading. Your comments regarding your proposals for 2005 are also noted. The Adjudicator looks forward to seeing substantial progress under this heading in that year.

Litter Control:

Other than minor littering, Gorey was practically litter free on adjudication day and this in turn reflects great credit on all concerned thanks to the efforts of your committee in creating an awareness of what is becoming a major problem. This is an important part of the competition and must be monitored carefully. In the event, well done to all concerned.

Tidiness:

Gorey is afflicted with an enormous amount of traffic but nevertheless, and bearing in mind the comments of last year's adjudicator, has managed to present itself in a reasonably neat and tidy manner. Nevertheless there is always room for improvement and this again could be part of your forward thinking and planning. The Adjudicator, however, got the feeling that there is a great consciousness of preserving the working and shopping environment of Gorey and if this is the case, all concerned are to be congratulated.

Residential Areas:

Gorey has numerous housing estates. Many were visited and, in the main, looked well. Those with open spaces are maintaining them to a high standard. Gorey also has some lovely terraced cottages particularly on the Carnew Road and these too are also being very well maintained. Individual houses looked extremely well on adjudication day and many had lovely gardens in full bloom which were a joy to see. This type of effort is absolutely vital in the Tidy Towns Competition. You cannot succeed without it. Well done to all concerned.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Many of the comments made under this heading last year are still applicable. However, on this occasion approach roads were nicely presented the verges of them having recently been cut. Approach roads are very important as they tend to set the tone for the rest of the centre. Adjudication normally takes place between the speed limit signs or the town nameplate signs whichever you opt for and verges should be trimmed and cut from thereon in bearing in mind the comments in the Tidy Towns Handbook regarding the preservation of wild flowers and wildlife habitat. Road surfaces are very good and pavements are being well maintained. This reflects great credit on Wexford County Council.

General Impression:

Gorey obviously needs a bypass road and the impression is that this is being planned. If this is the case, there will be a wonderful opportunity for the town to really shine in the Tidy Towns Competition because it has a lot going for it. Careful planning and attention to detail will get additional marks. Your plan is excellent. Stick with it. The adjudicator looks forward to returning to Gorey again next year to see further progress made.