

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **New Ross**

Ref: **575**

County: **Wexford**

Mark: **200**

Category: **E**

Date: **10/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	28
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	18
Litter Control	40	27	26
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	200	196

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you indeed for the information sent on the entry form which was most useful on adjudication day. Perhaps for next year you might also enclose a map of the town showing where specific projects have taken place which the Adjudicator can have specific sight of. While the comments made by the Adjudicator last year under this heading seem to be still applicable you are, nevertheless, to be commended on your efforts in spite of the difficulties which you are experiencing. In this connection, it is good also to note that you have the continuous support of your local Town Council, FAS and the Chamber of Commerce. It is recommended, however, that you draw a simple Development Plan for the purpose of identifying what projects you might be able to carry out over a 3-5 year period within your physical and financial resources and bearing in mind the support which you may or may not receive. This does not have to be an expensive plan and can be done in conjunction with your local Town Council and indeed any other interested parties. As well as being useful for planing purposes, it will also identify for you what progress your are making on a year to year basis which might encourage other people to participate by highlighting specific aspects for your community to get involved. In the event, please enclose a copy of the plan next year. You received and in-depth report from the Adjudicator last year. The following therefore is by way of comment by the present Adjudicator under the different headings of the competition on perceived further progress to date.

The Built Environment:

Public buildings and commercial premises in the town centre continue to maintain a reasonably good standard. Two other notable buildings in New Ross are the public library and swimming pool. The former, however, is in need of some exterior refurbishment as it appears to be weathering badly. In addition to the commercial premises named in last year's report, that of Kavanagh's Lounge Bar in Irishtown also looked extremely well. Your Schools and Churches are very imposing buildings and are well maintained. The area of the Quay also looks very well but, as mentioned in last year's report, more could be made of it. Perhaps this particular project might be one you could discuss with your Town Council if and when you draw up your Development Plan. The matter of dereliction is also one which you could discuss with your Town Council as under the Derelict Sites Act they have powers to approach the owners of such premises with a view to having them put in good repair. The Tourist Information Office is being very well maintained and the adjacent "Dunbrody Sailing Ship" looked resplendent on adjudication day.

Landscaping:

Many of the comments made under this heading in last year's report are also still applicable. Tree planting along the Wexford Road and the Waterford Road are now reaching maturity and look very well. The Landscaping on the Waterford Road and the flower boats was much admired. However, there are many areas in New Ross which would benefit from further landscaping including tree planting and the planting of shrubs which, again, could be part of any overall plan. The open area around the monument in Irishtown looked well as did the area in the vicinity of the swimming pool and public library.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your comments under this heading have been noted. However, you should endeavour to develop a specific wildlife project and, in this connection, the river Barrow, which is a tremendous amenity for the town, could be a suitable site. The information contained in the Tidy Towns Handbook will be of value to you.

Litter Control:

Large areas of New Ross were completely litter free. Unfortunately some of the areas leading to and around Irishtown had some littering. Perhaps a few more litter bins might solve the problem. This is an important aspect of the competition and needs constant monitoring.

Tidiness:

While comments made under this heading in last year's report still apply, there was, nevertheless, a tidy appearance in the town. Obviously there is an effort being made to create this environment but as long as there is dereliction and undeveloped areas there is a tendency for this "appearance" to live on. Your comments under this heading have been noted and, in this respect, keep up the good work.

Residential Areas:

A number of housing estates were visited and, in the main, are being well maintained. Your efforts in endeavouring to form Residents Associations in these estates is to be lauded and, in the event, will become an important part of any future success New Ross may have in the competition. Many individual gardens looked extremely well and create a nice ambience.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach road from Waterford has much improved. Perhaps some attention could be given to the little grotto at the corner of Mullinavat Road which is completely overgrown. The roads to

Wexford and Enniscorthy are in good condition and footpaths throughout the town are being well maintained. However, as mentioned in last year's report, the rear areas and streets away from the town centre looked somewhat neglected.

General Impression:

New Ross is a very busy town which, in turn, brings its own problems. However, it does have tremendous potential for the development of its open spaces and the Quay area. A plan is essential and, in this respect, you should consult with your Local Authority or indeed the Department of the Environment who may be able to give you some advice on such a matter. It is an area also where your local Chamber of Commerce should have a major involvement as they would represent many of the commercial and business premises throughout the town. The information contained in the entry form would seem to indicate that you are very much in a "Holding" situation at the moment. Many centres have found themselves in a similar situation but, over the years, and through consistent endeavour have gained much success in the Tidy Towns Competition. In this connection you comments regarding "Try, try, and try again" are very appropriate.