

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Greystones**

Ref: **421**

County: **Wicklow**

Mark: **217**

Category: **F**

Date: **08/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	
The Built Environment	40	34	
Landscaping	40	28	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	
Litter Control	40	26	
Tidiness	20	13	
Residential Areas	30	26	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	
General Impression	10	6	
TOTAL MARK	300	217	

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for the Greystones Tidy Towns draft Framework Plan 2005 – 2010 submitted with the entry form. Congratulations on this great initiative in which a great deal of research and thought has been placed. This is a comprehensive review of the current situation and has highlighted a number of items for consideration. The suggestions make very interesting reading and it is understood that this document has to be adopted by the Tidy Towns Committee. There are many suggestions in the document that will require public authorities action in order that they be achieved. The cooperation and agreement of businesses will also be needed for items. The maintenance and upkeep of landscape projects - including hard landscape projects will need to be assured in advance of implementation.

The Built Environment:

The standard of business premises has risen well over the past few years. Shops, many restaurants and public houses look especially well. The standard of painting, décor and shop front presentation is very attractive. The three story buildings along Church Street look especially interesting with their unusual form for this size of town, these add character to the street. Business premises on the Killincarrig road also look well. The Meridan Point buildings add a new style and dimension to the town. This development is nicely tucked into the town centre and as such is not competing with the conventional buildings in the vicinity. The Library, council offices and railway station look well and the Garda station also has a fine appearance. The old La Touch Hotel looks sad and hopefully this

will have a new life soon. Unused buildings quickly take on a neglected appearance – particularly the landscaping. The Beach House public house looks especially well decorated and serves well in such a prominent position. The Catholic Church is well painted and the Church of Ireland has a very imposing appearance in its elevated position. Brady's and the Ormonde cinema look well also. The St. David's building by the seafront has a very austere appearance and perhaps landscaping could alleviate this.

Landscaping:

The colourful summer bedding feature surrounding the granite stone "Welcome to Greystones" signs at each entry to the town are very attractive. Through the town there are a delightful collection of containerised plants adding a great sparkle of summer colour to the town. A small planted area by the AIB in Church Street needs attention. The simple formula of well-tended grass along the seafront areas is most effective and is well cared for. The area opposite the Catholic Church where some shrubs have been planted has now become neglected as well as the corner site. Some remedial work is needed along these railings. The park forms a very accessible amenity and appears well with the mature trees. The shrubbery at the east side has become overrun with weeds and requires attention. Perhaps a rejuvenated planting scheme is called for now. The Delgany roundabout has an interesting collection of plants. The landscaping at the Shell garage also needs attention to the shrubberies in this very prominent position. Tree planting along the road frontage at the Rugby Football Club will contribute greatly as these mature. The mature trees in the Burnaby area look very well and confer a lovely quality in that area. Care and attention to individual gardens through the town and on approach roads plays a significant part in the landscape of the town and credit is due to all you maintain their road frontage gardens well.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Greystones offers wonderful opportunities for wildlife observation and appreciation. In order to achieve the most from this facility, people generally need some help to know what to look for, when and where. The idea suggested in your submission to create a plan for a coastal walk is good. The involvement of local schools in these type of projects would be very useful and by contributing they would appreciate the value of the natural environment.

Litter Control:

Litter continues to present difficulties in Greystones. It is good that this issue is seriously addressed in your draft plan. The involvement of school groups and residents associations is excellent. The council also will need to play their part. Litter was noticed especially in the Church street area, in the shrubberies in the park and along the railings by the railway station. It is important to identify the black spots. Clean-ups days play their part but the message is that everyone should take responsibility to remove litter from their own property and the road frontage adjoining. The extra litter bins will be helpful provided these are managed well. An investigation into what becomes of collected litter and how much gets recycled would be interesting.

Tidiness:

Kerb side weed grasses, buildings that need attention, overhead cables in the street are some of the issues that come under this heading. The idea described in your submission of taking photographs of all offending items and dealing with each in turn seems an excellent approach as long as a certain degree of diplomacy is employed. Having two FAS workers available is indeed an achievement and if a work programme is planned having identified problem areas a very rewarding solution is at hand.

Residential Areas:

There is a vast range of residential types in Greystones – ranging from the houses in the Burnaby to the new estates and the one story cottage style residences as at Redford. In all cases residents

associations can do much to encourage people to participate and present their houses well. Competitions, information, physical help where there is a problem, help and advise facility - are some ways to help. Entrances to housing estate and the landscaping of open spaces within estates are very important. An example – the entrance to Redford park appears very neglected and in need of attention.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Road surfaces along by the coast road are in very good condition with excellent smooth surface. The entrance roads to the town are in very good condition with good wide verges well tended and footpaths. The cycle lanes are very helpful and well availed of. The one-way system along by the sea front works very well. Perhaps a one-way system in Church Street would help. More restriction of traffic and parking in Church Street would be welcome.

General Impression:

Greystones is a very pleasant town to visit. The combination of the Church street facilities with the beautiful long seafront and opportunities for walking makes it a unique place. The impressive draft plan denotes a serious intention to upgrade the town and provide better facilities.