

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Ballymoney Lower** Ref: **1939**  
County: **Wexford** Mark: **217**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **16/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	23
The Built Environment	50	27
Landscaping	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	36
Litter Control	50	31
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	12
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	21
General Impression	10	5
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>217</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Welcome to this years competition and thank you for the completed entry form, the content of which we read with great interest. Your four members have helped direct attention to a number of aspects relating to the presentation of their centre and already have achieved, with others, quite a significant improvement to the water quality of the small stream. The location, layout and topography of the new sewage system is such that it is not visually intrusive. While there is a general air of things happening to some houses others appear to be summer or holiday homes only and are currently unoccupied.

### **The Built Environment:**

Two very fine houses have been constructed overlooking the beach which are of a very good design and have been so planned as not to be in any way obtrusive. Cullen's mini-market looked quite well and the colourful kiosk at the beach has been badly vandalised by graffiti. Two houses are currently for sale.

### **Landscaping:**

The suitable and native trees planted by Wexford County Council as part of the new treatment screening have taken well and will in time be an important addition to the local landscape. Well done to those individual householders who availed of the opportunity to plant trees also. Your monitoring and appropriate response to the three IAS is noted while the experimental marram grass planting will be watched with interest. Well done to the householder who is engaged in the construction of the very large stone rockery.

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

The use of low invasive, maintenance techniques in respect of grass and hedgerows is most appropriate in this area as it leaves the existing nature habitat intact. The planned wild life panels will add greatly to the

interest of the casual visitor. The ongoing wild life field trips are an important activity and again will contribute to a wider knowledge and by extension wider appreciation of nature in all its diversity.

#### **Litter Control:**

The approach road and small car-parking area was free of litter. Well done to all litter pickers for their efforts. A small number of items were noted on the beach which disappointed. Your ongoing efforts to cope with the scourge of illegal dumping are applauded. Clearly there is a real need for a suitable sized litter container in the area. Your monthly major clear up is sadly necessary in the meantime.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

The inter-neighbour swapping of building materials is a wonderful and simple method of recycling materials which helps everyone and also the environment. The influence of the Country market is also a factor in cutting down the amount of material being sent as waste to landfill. The use of Gorey bottle bank seems to be widespread among your community which again cuts down on trucks to land fill sites.

#### **Tidiness:**

The graffiti at the toilets is indeed very distressing and all does seem to be the work of one person. Hopefully he has moved on in every sense of the word! The professional removal planned is greatly to be anticipated.

An amount of weeds were noted outside the new pavements which need to be removed. A substantial number of what appear to be street lamp standards are lying at the side of the car park area at the entrance to the strand. Clearly they should be used – if that is what they are intended for – or alternatively moved to a more appropriate storage location.

#### **Residential Areas:**

Your integrated system of community involvement in local planning matters and the close co-operation with Wexford County Council makes for a 'feet on the ground', sensible response to planning issues and incidental matters as they arise. The pleasant albeit random feel to the various front hedges and fences of the various houses along the road projects an authentic, rural feel to the simple experience of driving down to the beach. The housing stock is limited but mostly well managed. However there are a few houses which have not really disguised the probable fact that they are only rarely occupied.

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

The triangle at the commencement of the settlement with its profusion of traffic signs need better presentation. The installation of kerbing to prevent tyre tracks over the grass would be most helpful. An audit of the various signs is suggested. Are they all still current and needed? If so do any need to be replaced/upgraded/repainted or simply washed?

The Road surface from the Mini Market to the beach has been dug up so many times that the best solution now is to effectively recover the entire from beach to shop. In the interim urgent attention is necessary to a number of cross diggings which have subsided to create a traffic hazard certainly to cyclists.

The new path along this route is a valued addition to the comfort of walking along here. Traffic speed limit signs are in general well presented but some need to be washed.

#### **General Impression:**

Thank you again for this entry which is somewhat removed from what might be described as a 'normal' entry. The level of expertise available to the committee is well above the norm. It is focused on securing material improvement in the environment and so it seems is the extent of the commitment available to achieve these ends. Thank you for both.

All involved with this year's entry are warmly thanked, applauded and congratulated for their efforts and wished well in 2009