

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Foulksmills** Ref: **118**
County: **Wexford** Mark: **261**
Category: **A** Date(s): **04/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	36
The Built Environment	50	34
Landscaping	50	40
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	22
Litter Control	50	37
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	261

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the entry form. Unfortunately I could not find a map of the area, and this makes it difficult for an adjudicator to allocate additional marks to new work that cannot be identified. I note you have ten committee members and you hold 5 – 6 meeting per year depending on what is happening. In other locations meetings are enjoyable social occasions, not all humdrum, and sometimes finish up with games of cards, refreshments or maybe a pint or two. Planning is also very important, and here this does not need to be a major document. If you simply identify some things that you feel could enhance the environment and aesthetics of your place just draw up a plan of action, and you could get advice from an adjudicator or somebody else. You may never know that maybe a grant could be obtained, or you may have to get permission from the county council etc. It is positive to find that you are interacting well with Wexford County Council and the other agencies. Working in liaison with the schools is very worthwhile as it gets the children interested in their local environment from a young age, and I see the local school got a South Eastern Award. I note your comments on the adjudication date and this year I am doing this assessment in early July. Hopefully your planned social events will be successful. I see you are objecting to a forty-four unit development in the village. You could insist, in the event of this development going ahead, that the landscaping is done at first and a proper signpost is erected. It is found in other locations that these items are put on the "long finger" and sometimes not done at all.

The Built Environment:

The dominant building in the village is the old mill which is maintained in reasonable condition, and it would be wonderful if it could be put to different use. It could be worthwhile to explore the possibility of obtaining a conservation grant to do some work on the mill, and you could consult with the conservation officer at Wexford County Council in this respect. The new development beside the mill is beautiful. I admired Harpurs which was presented in very attractive condition. The Glanbia premises is screened somewhat, and perhaps a few

more trees could be planted in front to screen it further. The public houses were fresh and crisp in appearance and had some suitable garden furniture.

Landscaping:

I admired the pump which is a great reminder of bygone days, and it is set in nicely in that little space, but, with respect, could I suggest it could be painted a softer colour of maybe black or dark green. Beautiful landscaping was admired on the Duncannon Road with some great cinerarias and fuchsia in full bloom and they were overhanging a stream that ambles along by the side of the road. Other neat splashes of landscaping were observed outside Glanbia and at Harpurs shop and outside the engineering works. There is a beautiful wall running down outside the amenity park and here and there some nice flowers were growing on top of it. I admired the landscaping at the V at the bottom of the village, and in particular that fine cut stone sign of Foulksmills. Spectacular landscaping was enjoyed at the TidyTowns park where there is great garden furniture to relax and enjoy the immaculate displays of mature trees and shrubs. The water cascades gracefully down from the mill. The tarmac paths around neatly trimmed lawns are special with backdrops of picturesque scenery. The splendour of this park would rival any similar development in Ireland, and the energy and leadership qualities of the people, that put this park in place, and continue to look after it, show what can be achieved.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Foulksmills is a haven for all types of wildlife with all those beautiful old trees, shrubs and stone walls and also the new planting that is put in place. I note you are contemplating the opening up of a river walk and I wish you well with this proposal.

Litter Control:

I see from the entry form that you are paying a lot of attention to the question of litter and your efforts are successful as I saw practically no litter on my walk around the village. There were well serviced litter bins in use in the park and at other locations.

Waste Minimisation:

I inspected the recycling bins and they were presented in a neat and tidy fashion and people were using them. It is very positive that you are encouraging composting. Waste is now treated in a responsible way with the segregation bins in use.

Tidiness:

Near the centre of the village there is the remains of a house that was recently demolished and it is a blight on the area. Undoubtedly the recycling bins are serving their purpose, but, with respect, could I suggest that maybe they could be relocated somewhere else, and away from this really special park.

I note your remarks about the phone box, and I agree it is in disgraceful condition. You could contact Eircom again and let them know that it is a blight on this picturesque location.

Residential Areas:

I admired in particular the attractive stone built house that has 1860 over the door, it was adorned tastefully with hanging baskets, window boxes and shrubs, and across the road there was a well presented house that sported some attractive hanging baskets. All the houses in the village are well maintained, and some had great displays of lawns, trees, shrubs and flowers.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The roads all around the town are in very good condition with good fencing and stone walls. The old stone bridge is very attractive. I noticed the onset of ivy on some of the stone walls and you could consider the removal of it, as firstly it will continue to cover that wonderful stonework and finally will destabilise the wall. A chemical called arsenal could be of assistance here, if it is still available, but it could only be used by a person proficient in the use of such weed killers.

General Impression:

It was a pleasure to visit Foulksmills and stroll around the village and especially the TidyTowns park. You are to be congratulated on this great effort – well done.

