

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Gorey** Ref: **131**  
County: **Wexford** Mark: **250**  
Category: **E** Date(s): **02/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	40
Landscaping	50	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	22
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	4
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	31
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	26
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>250</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Your adjudicator would like to welcome Gorey to the 2008 TidyTowns Competition. Thank you for the comprehensive entry documentation together with your 2008 - 2010 TidyTowns Plan. The Plan is an extremely detailed document but the adjudicator would recommend that projects be allocated to an individual year with a note of possible supporting partners and a cost indicator. The Press cuttings and the Gorey brochure were also of interest by way of background. It is a great idea that your monthly meetings are open to the general public, and that Committee members are allocated individual roles for TidyTowns in Gorey. In TidyTowns terms Gorey enjoys strong support from the business community and this is most positive. The Schools links also appear to be very strong. Do remember that the TidyTowns Handbook gives great information and suggestions. Both new Committees and those who have been involved in the competition for some time will find this booklet really useful.

### **The Built Environment:**

It was encouraging to read of so much new development under way in Gorey and to appreciate this first hand on adjudication day. There are many buildings of architectural interest in the town and some fine listed frontages and it is so important that these elevations are preserved as seems to be happening. The Gorey Shopping Centre and the contemporary elevation of the Credit Union building are just two of a number of buildings that impressed this adjudicator who welcomes strongly a contemporary approach to new building design. However the lights at the Credit Union seemed to be over elaborate. We look forward to seeing the completed Civic Centre next year. Your restoration work on the Church Graveyard in the centre of Gorey appears to have been a real labour of love. Good grass area at the Hospital grounds caught the eye but the roadside railings here needed to be painted. The signage on the old stone and brick School building looked a little out of place for a heritage building and perhaps alternatives might be discussed while the Coach House would be improved if repainted for 2009. It occupies a key location at a busy road junction. The Brownes

corner building was much admired as the colour scheme used here is excellent and helps to highlight the interesting door and window detailing. One or two projecting canopies were noted that detracted from the view along the Main Street while the presentation of The Flower pub is excellent.

### **Landscaping:**

Along the Main Street the trees helped to soften the impact of so many cars both parked and moving. One of the attractions of Gorey is the many small landscaped areas many of which are being maintained by your Committee and helpers. The area by the Ashdown Hotel looked particularly well as did the Garden City landscaping. The planters were looking very colourful as was the Town Park. This is a beautiful peaceful area that was well presented on adjudication day. The Sunflower Growing Competition was imaginative – how many Sunflowers were produced? At the top of the town the landscaped area with the Cannon was admired and this provided an attractive town introduction from that side. The Lid landscaping makes a real contribution to the presentation of that part of Gorey and the many hanging baskets were also admired.

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

The Graveyard project seems to be providing wildlife benefits already and this is encouraging for the future, while the provision of Bird Boxes should encourage wildlife into this and other areas. Have you considered carrying out a wildlife survey of the area with the help of the Schools?

### **Litter Control:**

In the centre Gorey litter control was quite good and this despite how busy the town centre was on adjudication day. The concept of the "15 Minutes Spring Clean" is an excellent idea and one that this adjudicator had not come across before. The anti-litter signage helps to keep the litter issue in the minds of the community. Litter was noted in Charlotte Grove and bags of rubbish were dumped at the Bering Centre at the Fire Station. At Tesco the Bring Centre here needed a wall behind and some litter was evident here. Some litter was seen on the Carnew road

### **Waste Minimisation:**

The Recycling Machines at the Community School are an excellent initiative and one that this adjudicator had not come across before. It seemed to the adjudicator that there was a cardboard collection in Gorey and this makes a good contribution to waste reduction locally.

### **Tidiness:**

The action taken on illegal signage by the Town Council is strongly commended and this seemed to be effective. It was good to see the ESB pole problem in Market Square resolved. While very little graffiti was noted in Gorey it is good that you are working with the Wexford Tidy Towns Network on this issue. Very bad weed growth at kerbs was noted on the road to the Health Centre and along Main Street some weed growth was noted in the gravel at the base of the fine trees. Some of the litter bins were in need of washing and repainting or replacement. The display of retail goods on pavements should be discouraged and there appeared to be a lot of projecting signs along Main Street.

### **Residential Areas:**

The funding of approved Residents Associations project is a really useful initiative and your Committee is commended for this. The shrubbery replacement in Old Garden City and good work in other estates was most encouraging to see. Really superb grass areas were examined at Gorey Hill and excellent tree planting at Newborough softens the landscape here. Meadow Gate had a great sense of openness not often found on estates. Along Thomas Street the terraced houses here are attractive and were complimented by some good colour usage. Very bad weed growth at kerbing was noted in some estates and this is something that needs to be watched.

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

Resurfacing has made a great difference to certain parts of the town. Generally on approach roads verges needed to be cut and a few seemed to be a little rough. The new car parking and landscaping at Wexford Street was admired. Much litter was present along Inch Road while on the Dublin road the railway bridge would be improved if painted.

### **General Impression:**

It was a pleasure for your adjudicator to visit Gorey for the first time since the bye-pass opened. You continue to make good progress – well done to everyone. Good luck with your Tidy Towns projects for 2009 when we look forward to visiting you again.

