

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **New Ross** Ref: **259**
County: **Wexford** Mark: **237**
Category: **E** Date(s): **03/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	31
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	21
Litter Control	50	26
Waste Minimisation	20	11
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	237

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome New Ross to the 2008 TidyTowns Competition. Thank you for the detailed entry information and the photographs of the two projects. Your committee of twelve people is large by national standards and that is reflective of great community support for your work for New Ross. Thank you for the 2006 – 2008 TidyTowns Action Plan for New Ross. This gave a useful indication of your future vision for the town. It would be helpful for you to indicate year by year the projects that you would like to undertake who the supporting agencies and / or organisations might be for each project. The active support of the Town Council is so important for TidyTowns and their work with you is commended. The map supplied lacked detail and for next year a slightly larger scale would be helpful. The Schools Environmental Competitions sound most interesting and you might let us have details for 2009. 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 so encouraging for your adjudicator to read that a pro-active approach has been adopted by the Town Council to derelict sites and that some progress is being made in redevelopment terms. The Old Garda Station redevelopment under different owners is welcomed as is the fact that there are plans to redevelop the old Post office. The adjudicator read with great interest of the plans to redevelop both sides of the river and we look forward perhaps in 2009 to seeing an outline copy of the vision for this area. On the Wexford approach the old Garage site on the left looked very untidy and presumably this is on the list of derelict sites. A number of slate hung buildings in New Ross were admired and this occurs infrequently in Irish towns and villages. The adjudicator was impressed with the view along North Street downhill towards the old Tholsel building. The hanging baskets and window boxes along this street added much to the overall streetscape here. One of the attractive characteristics of New Ross is the many flights of steel steps that lead up from the riverside area to

higher levels. The Shambles with its beautiful curved stone wall to the street represents an important part of the town's history. Are there any plans for appropriate redevelopment retaining the original features? A 1995 Planning Notice was noted here. Along South Main Street some very attractive shop fronts caught the eye and these included the McCauley and Burkes Pharmacies. The slated area above the McCauley name sign is unusual. On a larger architectural scale Delare House is an interesting building with flights of steps and iron railings combined with an excellent colour choice. Attractive landscaping was noted at the Catholic Church on higher ground. Presumably the large Stafford Shipping building will be included in the waterfront plans? The frontage of this building would be greatly improved if painted cosmetically. To the side of SuperValu the small square-like area has potential to become a focal point in New Ross. This would mean the removal of some of the car parking and the provision of hard and soft landscaping. The upper areas of the town high above the river are extremely attractive and some good presentation was noted here.

Landscaping:

The many hanging baskets, window boxes and planters added much colour to many parts of New Ross. However along South Street the adjudicator was surprised to find the large planter boxes located in pairs rather than spreading them out for wider impact. After great difficulty the adjudicator located the Agenda 21 project. The Agenda 21 Application Form stated that the site is 'opposite O'Brien's Pub' while it is really to the side of the pub. Obviously great work has been carried out here and further works still remain. However the adjudicator was surprised to see that there did not appear to be provision for wheel chair access for a public area. It is suggested that the railings be painted and the river needed to be cleaned of branches. Quite a lot of litter was noted here also. Good landscaping was noted by Aldi and at Sweeney's Garden Centre. The bridge abutment on the northern side was visited and the baskets and trees here make this an attractive area. The stump of an old tree still remains and litter was present here.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Thank you for the photographs of the Schools Environmental Project – a worthy initiative to provide Bat and bird boxes. Your entry noted that Pearse Park had been upgraded. On adjudication day this great work had been compromised by really terrible littering in the car park here.

Litter Control:

On adjudication day litter control was found to be an area where improvement is required. At the Bring Centre at Tesco much dumped rubbish was present. The Litter Management Plan is commended by the adjudicator and also the fact that fines are being issued. The Schools Litter Awareness Art Competition is another way of getting your message across. Really bad litter was noted in the general Knocknavilla / Bawnmore / areas and the general area around the Agenda 21 project. On the Mountgarrett road litter was also present and some litter was noted along the N.30, on the Dungarvan approach road and on South Street. Along the laneway that starts opposite the Tourist Information Office extremely bad littering was present.

Waste Minimisation:

The Schools Roadshow is a great concept as is the business advice on waste minimisation given by the Town Council. Congratulations to the four Schools who have achieved their Green Flag status and hopefully they will all go on to earn another. Congratulations to the person(s) behind the Statoil waste disposal unit. The householders recycling leaflet gives great clear information.

Tidiness:

The work on clearing up the two old bridge abutments has made a great difference to these areas and was great to see that the old Urban Renewal signs had been taken down at last. The plans for the under grounding of cables are strongly welcomed and hopefully all the appropriate agencies and organisations will support the work. Near the northern bridge abutment a vandalised Telephone Box was noted. On the Mullinavat road the large industrial site on the left looked quite untidy but possibly little can be done about this area for the moment. The display of retail goods on the pavement should be discouraged especially where the pavement is narrow.

Residential Areas:

The high standard of maintenance of both older and newer residential areas continued again this year and local pride seemed to be much in evidence of adjudication day. Good planting featured at Willow Park and the residential area at Augustinians Court also impressed. The clearance work at The Grant is a welcome development and very bad kerb weeds at Bosheen estate needed urgent attention. Generally in estates the painting of road boundary walls needs to have a few times each year and kerb weed growth can be a difficulty. Some very good central grass areas were noted in some estates. In the upper levels of New Ross many excellent presentations caught the eye.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Dungarvan approach was excellently presented with good verges trees and colourful planting. No recent work appeared to have taken place on the Mullinavat road. On the approach from the Wexford side the grassy sloping banks and the fine trees on both sides of the road running down the hill towards New Ross is very impressive.

General Impression:

It was a great pleasure for your adjudicator to visit New Ross and we wish you well with your projects for next year. You continue to make progress supported by a progressive Town Council.