

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Oylegate** Ref: **252**
County: **Wexford** Mark: **210**
Category: **B** Date(s): **07/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	16
Litter Control	50	28
Waste Minimisation	20	1
Tidiness	30	19
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	210

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the completed application form, unfortunately there was no map attached and mores the pity as it would have made the process of adjudication that little bit easier.

I note with regret that there seems to be a lack of interest in the competition among the greater population of the village, and that as a committee of 3 you seem to be soldiering on against the odds. Can this be rectified by inviting representatives from other organisations board and then consider a basic plan of action for the year ahead at least.

As was stated in last year's report the village of Oylegate has the potential to do better in the competition, this could be achieved with just a little more support from the community.

The Built Environment:

The village is extremely busy because of all the through traffic of the N11, that said the traffic calming measures has made once hazardous tasks such as crossing the road that little bit easier.

The RC Church is in a very secluded position in the village and like many similar churches in Wexford it is very attractive from an architectural perspective.

The adjoining grounds are well maintained and the same can be said of the National School which dates back to 1929, maybe the school boundary wall could do with a repainting.

The Garda Barracks is one of the old style buildings that are not now to be seen that often.

It was little bit insensitive of the occupant garda to be flying the black and amber after the day before!

The new business centre was orderly and business premises were maintained to a good standard.

The Slaney Inn, Mernaghs and Freemans Gala all deserve mention for the presentation of their respective premises.

Dereliction is evident in the centre of the village, at some stage the committee might consider approaching the

owners of the few offending premises to ask to bring them into line in some form or other. One appreciates the sensitivity that this might evoke in a small community.

Landscaping:

With the extremities extending outwards on both sides of the N11, it is important that trees play an important part in village landscape.

The council has succeeded admirably in doing this as both main exits/entrances were tree lined in a very effective manner.

As a matter of fact the overall landscaping and planting arrangements viewed at different locations in the village were quite good.

These were complemented by some excellent gardens at St David's Terrace.

The village seating needs to be reviewed as some of the existing blue and white seats were the worse for wear.

Some very nice new wrought iron seats were observed in other villages in the county.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

There was no input in your application under this category and it seems if there isn't much about to happen. This is more the pity as the village has a multitude of natural habitats that could be exploited for the benefit of the local community.

Next year's application may see a change in this category and in the interim do try to consult with the local wildlife ranger who may be in a position to offer some help.

Litter Control:

Litter control was good and this was after the week end activities and bi daily collections are paying off.

There are a few areas that could be potential black spots and the committee needs to be vigilant at all time in order to maintain an acceptable standard.

Bin numbers were sufficient and bins were placed at accessible parts of the village.

Waste Minimisation:

Waste minimisation is a category that has been misunderstood by some committees.

Do try and consult the booklet race against waste or its website for some basic ideas that would earn the village marks, as well as making a positive contribution to the Race Against Waste programme

Tidiness:

The standard was acceptable with room for improvement.

A number of untidy back areas were observed as were one or two rusty and untidy gates on the Gorey exit.

Weed control was fine again considering, the weather especially the previous day, was pretty poor.

I would also concur with the comments of last years adjudicator that business premises owners should ensure that immediate areas at relatively tidy at all times.

Residential Areas:

Oylegate has some very fine housing developments notably St David's Terrace and Cun An Tobar.

The residents of these areas are right to be justifiably proud of their properties as they have set a high benchmark for the rest of the village.

Some noble gardens were observed and green areas were cut and presented in an exemplary fashion.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Some of the internal road surfaces were a little rough and there is room for improvement.

The need for a footpath out to the School is immediate and one wonders if Wexford County Council has been approached.

Entrances from both sides of the N11 are in fine condition and the road in from Ballysillagh was also good.

The main thing in relation to road entrances is that views are not restricted and that signs are clean and visible, Oylegate conforms to these basic criteria.

General Impression:

It was nice to re visit Oylegate after a number of years.

Traffic has increased two fold in this period but the calming measures have made it less frenetic and one is able to cross the road at selected points.

It's a pity that there is not more support for your efforts amongst the community in general., as the village has far more potential do well in the competition.

We wish you better luck with your efforts in the years to come.