

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Wicklow** Ref: **244**
County: **Wicklow** Mark: **254**
Category: **E** Date(s): **12/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	37
The Built Environment	50	36
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	23
Litter Control	50	32
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	254

Overall Development Approach:

It is great to see Wicklow in the Tidy Towns Competition 2008. Thank you for your detailed entry form, clear map and publicity clippings and photographs – which make it all the easier to allocate marks. Your committee of six is quite small for a town the size of Wicklow, however the support of local residence groups, scouts, Chamber of Commerce, Wicklow Town Council and volunteers must be a great help. How many volunteers do you estimate help your committee throughout the year? It is also encouraging that you receive sponsorship from many of the groups mentioned as well as, Supervalu, R.N.L.I. and Wicklow Active Retirement. You are commended for your co-operation with the schools and in particular the Transition Year programme where possible. Given that your committee only reformed in 2006 you are doing trojan work! Now, on a final note, there are many marks to be gained in this section of the competition and you should, perhaps with the help of Wicklow Town Council, devise a Three, Four or Five years plan for the town and submit it with next years entry form. This would facilitate a significant increase in marks.

The Built Environment:

The Grand Hotel looked marvellous on the day of adjudication. Wicklow Tennis Club is neatly presented and was busy as the adjudicator passed on a sunny afternoon. The Churches looked well as ever and the red bricked Garda Station was admired for its neat presentation. Leitrim Lounge, Bridge Street Books, Wicklow Sailing Club, McCreas Florists, Viji, Horizon were all admired for their fresh appearance. Paintwork at the Bridge Tavern was flaking and should be repainted. Wicklow Golf Club looked well however, the entrance should be repainted before next year's competition. The Ballynerrin Playground looks fantastic. Butlers Medical Hall, Fitzpatricks, Hannahs, Abbey Pharmacy, John P. Hopkins and Wardrobe are setting a high standard of presentation and this is commended. Please ensure to provide, 'before' and 'after' pictures of upgrade work carried out particularly on vacant premises.

Landscaping:

The landscaped area opposite Tesco is most welcoming. Similarly, the Fair Green looked wonderful however; the bollards had not yet been painted. The public park at Ballynerrin Playground, basketball and tennis courts is maintained to the highest standard and your co-operation with Wicklow Town Council is clearly paying dividends! Your entry form indicated that a flower bed was intended for the area opposite the entrance to Marlton Park – this work had not been done by adjudication day. Incidental planters and hanging baskets were admired and Fitzwilliam Square, as ever, looked great. The entrance to Glebemount is a credit to those who maintain it!

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Wicklow town is in the enviable position of having a maritime location thereby facilitating wildlife subject to careful management. The Nature Walks and Blackcastle areas are the most wonderful amenities and indeed, both were busy on the day of adjudication. Your ongoing plans for improvement work around the Train Station have been noted.

Litter Control:

In general, litter control in Wicklow is quite good and it is clear that your management strategy in association with the Town Council Litter Wardens is effective. You are commended on the involvement of a variety of groups in your clean-ups as this is the best way of creating awareness and keeping Wicklow litter free. Quite an amount of litter was noted, however, strewn along Dunbur road as the adjudicator drove past.

Waste Minimisation:

A bring bank was noted at the car park at Supervalu. Your entry form indicated that the town has a large recycling facility at The Murrough – please ensure to mark this on the map with next years entry. You are commended on the segregation and recycling of litter and the publicity you generate in this regard. Do any of the schools in Wicklow participate in the Green School Competition?

Tidiness:

Wicklow is a bustling town with very heavy through traffic and very little available parking! A few pointers however with regard to tidiness are; broken signage was noted at Discount Stores and at the pub adjoining the Bayview in the same area and this detracts from the streetscape. Graffiti was noted on a sign near Black Castle, at a parking meter at the Fair Green and on Convent Road and this is unfortunate. An over grown bank on St. Patricks Road gave an untidy appearance and some kerbside weeds are beginning to emerge in Marlton Park.

Residential Areas:

It is encouraging to note that you made a donation to the Harbour View residence group. Please indicate on the map next year where this estate is as the adjudicator couldn't find it. Properties at Wentworth looked well and private residences at Church Hill too were admired. Seaview Road and St. Laurences were neatly presented and Glengorse B&B looked marvellous. Marlton Park, Marlton Demense and Heatherbrook were all highly commended for their high standard of presentation. The freshly painted terraced row at Quarantine Road brightens up the area and was greatly admired.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Roads, streets and back area are generally quite good in Wicklow. As mentioned earlier, however parking appears to be an issue in the town and there appeared to be a constant flow of traffic through the narrow streets.

General Impression:

It is great to see Wicklow progressing steadily in the competition and this is due to your committee's hard work and co-operation in particular, with the Town Council. Hopefully this trend will continue for many years to come. Congratulations to all involved.