

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Gorey** Ref: **131**
County: **Wexford** Mark: **260**
Category: **F** Date(s): **03/07/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	36
The Built Environment	50	40
Landscaping	50	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	24
Litter Control	50	31
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	19
Residential Areas	40	33
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	26
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	260

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to the TidyTowns Programme for 2009 and thank you for the Completed Entry Form. We did not have sight of the three year plan referred to last year. Please update it and submit it with the entry form next year. It is recommended you spend some of the winter period identifying projects and objectives to achieve over the next three years. This process will form the bases of your next Three Year Programme. Such a written statement is beneficial in terms of firstly concentrating your own minds on priorities, secondly in securing the wider engagement of the growing community and thirdly in the context of discussions with other agencies such as Wexford County Council and Gorey Town Council who's funding, co-operation and involvement you are seeking. Refer to the TidyTowns handbook which will give you many pointers in this regard.

The railway station area is now very well presented, well done on the fine new walling and new car-parking arrangements. Might we recommend a sign be provided to indicate the entrance roadway as it is easy for visitors to over-run the access road. Both railway bridges are clean and smart following your great efforts in this regard.

Major new buildings on the Wexford Road are settling in well, The impressive and sizeable Amber Spring Hotel featured excellent planting in the foreground while nearby the Knockmullen Retail Park was suitably presented and appeared to be well patronised. Gorey Shopping Centre is large and no doubt working hard at becoming established. The large surface car park is suitable divided by appropriate planting. Gorey Little Theatre has grown into very fine premises now and was much admired for the stylistic frontage. Nearby the SuperValu was well presented.

The large Catholic Church was impressive and suitable presented on the day of adjudication.

The schools in Michael street were busy, neat and orderly. Extensive work is in progress at the large building at the junction of Main Street and Esmond Street.

Congratulations to the IT class in Commercial School who designed the TT Logo

The Built Environment:

The Garda station was bright and well painted as was the larger Fire Station nearby.

The charming Christchurch building and graveyard with the Old Christchurch School (1834) beside make for a strong presence on Charlotte Row. The new pavement is quite an addition; do insure the traffic spoil is swept from the pavement. The great work on the cemetery and its wall is applauded and the conclusion element of the total task is awaited with great interest.

Premises catching the eye for their shop fronts and general attractiveness include McGuire Jewellery, Baby Rouge, Thómas Funge, The small and charming No 7 in Grattan Street, The high profile Browns in its corner position was much admired, Thomás Kinsella shop front looked very fine, also Warren Estates (Est. 1871) on their commanding corner site. Pugin Court in Michael Street, a large new office development next to Gorey Pharmacy sharing a large new building block in Michael Street with The Medical Centre.

The somewhat discreetly located Court House was neat and orderly but again a number of weeds at the base of its walls. The Ashdown Hotel car park was neat and projected an agreeable image. Along the Avenue Grant's Pharmacy and the new infill buildings add to this street.

Landscaping:

The road side planting on the Dublin Road has matured well with many trees in the fore front and in general is of a very high order giving an excellent first impression of this growing and bustling town. Good planting in front of Lidl on Dublin Road continued the theme.

Many of the trees on Esmond Street are likely to reach the end of their natural life span over the next number of years and a planned programme of replacement is recommended. Good hanging baskets are a feature of Esmond Street. The flowers and shrubs at the Fire Station car park approach road have recovered well following the appropriate positioning of protective measures. Gorey Town Park was as usual very pleasantly organised and on the day of adjudication was comfortably full of people enjoying the sunshine. Please wash the base of the wall which is very much traffic stained.

The Grotto on the Courtown Road was admired as was the extensive grass area with picnic tables. Excellent planting at the parking bay on the Enniscorthy Road and a useful picnic table also.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your policy of selecting plants and shrubs with a view to their berry and feeding properties is to be welcomed. Discuss the many options with a local bird life enthusiast or consult the Wild Life Officer attached to the Office of Public Works for additional ideas. The restored water trough by the Railway roundabout is a delightful addition to the street furniture here.

Slí na Slánta signs are welcomed and it is hoped the facility will be used by both residents and visitors alike. The installation of additional bird boxes and bat boxes is commendable. Do ensure that you continue to engage with the school children.

Litter Control:

It is sad to record the extent of disfiguring litter noted within the splendid 1798 Cross memorial at the top of the town and this despite the nearby litter bin. Only one flag was on display here. The flying of flags is one of the least expensive enhancements one can recommend, bringing colour and movement to the scene in an instance. Litter bins of a suitable design were noted in many locations. In general litter management might be said to be improving but sadly, very slowly. Your own activities in litter pickups and patrols are to be admired.

Waste Minimisation:

The recycling facility at the car park in Esmond Street was suitably signposted and well presented. The clothes bank at the fire station was suitably positioned and again well signposted. Your sponsoring of Gorey

Youth project in clearing up areas of the town is excellent on a number of fronts. This section of the competition is also about encouraging a change of mind-set in respect of waste minimisation. Literature is available from Wexford County Council to help individuals reduce usage of scarce and expensive energy, encourage reuse of items where appropriate and recycle materials wherever possible so that the final amount of waste carried to landfill is minimised.

Tidiness:

Excellent work at the junction of Michael Street and McDermott Street where the low level railing has been replaced gives this long established amenity area an opportunity to flourish again.

The surrounds of the fire station could be improved, there were an amount of weeds at the base of its own walls, on the drive way leading to it and also surrounding the kerb stones opposite. The square block type pavement at the AIB bank is proving unsightly as weeds and grass are peeping through each of the divides between the blocks.

The potentially and once imposing Avenue continues to disappoint. Indiscriminate car parking has destroyed the grass areas between the road-side trees. The point has been reached where a decision is required to either restore and respect - and accordingly protect - the grassed areas or remove them and concede these green spaces to car parking. The current, middle course is clearly not a solution.

The blank, backing board for a notice (planning permission?) is still attached to the hospital entrance on Charlotte Row. If no longer required it should be removed.

All of the promotional signs for Gorey Business Park on the Enniscorthy Road need to be washed and most need to be re-positioned, looking somewhat tilted and neglected in their present state.

Residential Areas:

The expansion of accommodation in Gorey is very large and will in effect change the domestic and retail situation considerable in the town.

Ramsgate Village is a large and well designed housing development off the Wexford Road. A fine communal grassed area and tree planting are of a high order. It is all in all a very fetching, leafy estate. The removal of spoil between the road and path is required here. The smaller scale Avenue Court was admired. The Grattan Court Estate was projecting a fine image of a well developed and settled community with an agreeable display of trees and planting at its entrance. Woodbury a larger estate nearby was also presented to a fitting degree. Its links to the ring road when completed may require some traffic calming measures to be installed. Are there any plans to continue the planting which looks so pleasant at the upper end of the road leading to the roundabout?

Sean Lios estate is a well developed estate but the entrance road surface is in need of resurfacing. New Borough is an extensive new estate which will in due course, it seems, be linked to the new ring road. It has a very well executed stone name place, ample trees and extensive planting throughout.

Meadow Gate housing is a pleasant development on the Wexford Road which caught the eye.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

On the Crannford road approach signage, inclusive of the Lions Club sign is neat, clean and readable. In many places spoil has been allowed to accumulate between the pavement and the road which is very noticeable. On the Courtown road weeds outside the kerb stones were also a problem. The speed limit signs are suitable presented. Fine signs for the Gorey Stone Art.

The Wexford Road (R741) speed limit signs are clean and readable but the road surface in places needs attention. A number of commercial signs on the Carnew Road have become obscured by encroaching vegetation. Main Street -a very busy through route - is fortunately equipped with a good supply of controlled pedestrian crossings

General Impression:

Gorey has expanded greatly over the last ten years and the trend seems set to continue. Progress needs to be accelerated on the ring road which continues to be a work-in-progress. Many shops and firms are making a real effort to present their premises in a warm and welcoming manner. The enormous amount of sheer hard work undertaken by the Tidy Towns committee and their supporters over the last year has been really inspiring. To everyone and each agency associated with this year's entry our best thanks and applause. Please keep up the good work and you are wished well in next year's competition.

