

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **New Ross** Ref: **259**
County: **Wexford** Mark: **242**
Category: **E** Date(s): **01/07/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	34
The Built Environment	50	34
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	22
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	242

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to the 2009 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission, which included a completed and well detailed application form together with an informative map clearly outlining this year's projects, all of which were of great assistance to the adjudicator on the occasion of his visit. The co-operation between the committee and New Ross Town Council sets a fine example for others to emulate. Your structured approach to dealing with problems such as derelict sites, in conjunction with your strategic approach to future improvements, is already resulting in a well integrated campaign. Your all embracing PR efforts to drum up support amongst the wider community for TidyTown activities makes impressive reading. Your continued liaison with the local schools is to be commended and the results are obvious. Well done on this effort!

The Built Environment:

The historic walled town of New Ross has certainly retained its character well. Inside the old wall the intricate layout of streets has an interesting pattern which creates great visual interest for the pedestrian. Beyond the walls, Irishtown, located on higher ground, retains buildings with a contrasting smaller scale which still hold all their former appeal. The waterfront is an area bustling with activity and retains much of its past character as a commercial port. The well presented Three Sisters Marina, tourist office and interpretive centre with the centrepiece sailing ship, the Dunbrody, creates a lovely ambience for the visitor. In the old town, it is good to see such a vast number of well presented commercial premises and it would be impossible to name them all individually. On a walk through the core area, many of these were admired and a few are mentioned as follows: Mooney's Home and Garden; Nugent's Newsagency; J.Hogan's Shoestore; M & J's Restaurant; Kathleen's; Hanly's Pharmacy; The Bakehouse; Jack and Jill; O'Brien's Pub; Forristal's; J.Bailey; McCauley's Chemist; Deegan's; St. Michael's Theatre and many more too numerous to mention. At Irishtown, a wonderful cluster of buildings was observed close to the gated entrance to St. Stephen's Cemetery. Cost Cutters Shop,

Next Door and Corcoran's Pub combine to give a wonderful example of vernacular scale. These well presented commercial buildings, with a colourful array of window boxes and hanging baskets, are hugely enhanced by the presentation of their adjoining outbuildings. The whitewashed buildings opposite complete the enclosure in this charming location. Further along there was a pleasing contrast of scale between well presented private dwellings and St. Mary's Secondary School opposite. Grass margins here are well presented and the mature trees form a nice enclosure along the street. At the historical Battle of Ross Memorial, the Fairgreen housing scheme, presented in an attractive pastel colour scheme, is a fine example of infill street-house design. The Library building and its surrounding shrubberies are in need of some maintenance and the unfortunate Eircom building opposite could have a more pleasant presentation. The adjudicator looks forward to the completion of your plans for the redevelopment of the Shambles. This scheme is a very appropriate proposal in this central location. Well done on your significant achievements towards long term conservation which will make a huge contribution to the environment of your historical town!

Landscaping:

The Pearse Park is a fine centrepiece to the landscaping agenda and the range of activities here is impressive. The passive Memorial Garden at the entrance is well presented and the rose beds here look well. The tennis court was being well used on the day of adjudication as tennis coaching was in progress. The running track is a fine facility surrounded by some pleasant walkways. The well appointed administration building housing changing rooms, wheelchair accessible toilets and offices facilitating the Marina are well presented. The attractive and colourful children's playground was also being well used on the day of adjudication. Elsewhere, there is a myriad of well presented incidental open spaces and, at Three Bullet Gate, good quality landscaping, both hard and soft, was admired. Further along at the Windmill Lane -Town Wall area, the well appointed playground was also admired. The surrounding stone wall here is a feature. The hard landscaping at the viewing area on North Quay is a lovely intervention. The area is well presented with a nice array of hanging baskets and floral displays. The trees here have matured nicely and the ground surface is attractive. The adjacent Galley Cruising Restaurant is certainly one of the highlights of New Ross and together with the nicely planted bridge abutment area presents a huge enhancement to the waterfront. The Mills opposite are a very successful reconstruction, retaining a pleasant industrial scale opposite the magnificent ivy covered dental surgery, both forming a nice visual enclosure here.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The wild area retained at Ely's Walk is a nice contrast to the more formal town park. The development of a wildlife habitat in this area has certainly proved effective as the adjudicator witnessed an abundance of wildlife activities on the day of adjudication. Well done to the schools on the provision of bird and bat boxes which will considerably reinforce the area's potential!

Litter Control:

The adjudicator was very impressed with the ongoing anti-litter campaign being carried out by your volunteers and this campaign was well illustrated by the photographs submitted. Each area outlined by you was inspected and certainly the charming Maudlin's Bridge and Bawnmore area has substantially benefited. Litter remains a problem in many areas throughout the town, particularly on the busy quays, at the entrance to Pearse Park and car parks and along some of the interesting pedestrian links. Your programme involving the school children is encouraging and the educational value of this initiative, no doubt, will pay dividends in time.

Waste Minimisation:

Your Roadshow and promotion through the Green Schools initiative has certainly proved successful. An array of school Green Flags at Michael St. certainly looked impressive on the day of adjudication. The Bring Centre at Tesco was neat and tidy and well presented. At Irishtown, the Bring Centre adjacent to St. Stephen's Cemetery is well located and was also clean and tidy.

Tidiness:

There are a number of areas, well documented over the last number of years, which remain to be redeveloped, particularly along the waterfront area. No doubt your plans for regeneration of the Quays, the elimination of derelict sites and the objectives of the new Heritage and Conservation Plan, will have a strong effect on this agenda in the coming years. Last year's adjudicator indicated a number of areas which could be tackled in the short term and we look forward to progress on these.

Residential Areas:

New Ross has a large number of housing schemes which have been developed in recent years and many of these have attractive open spaces. In addition, they are well serviced by the proximity of sporting facilities such as the Rugby Club and Soccer Club at Hospital Road and Kennedy Park and St. Joseph's Park at Knockavilla. Housing schemes are generally maintained to a high standard and many individual private houses and their colourful gardens were admired. With the slowing of development due to economic

circumstances, perhaps it would be a good time for the committee to compile an inventory of these schemes with a view to establishing communication with the residents and obtaining assistance with their ongoing maintenance and presentation programme.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Wexford approach now presents a hugely attractive woodland backdrop that has matured well in the past number of years. Verge cutting to the margins was evident if a little uneven in places. The footpath here is a good amenity and was being well used by pedestrians on the day of adjudication. At the entrance to the town proper, the Brandon House Hotel looked impressive, and beyond, the contemporary design of the new Garda Station is well presented with both hard and soft landscaping.

The Enniscorthy approach again has a fine maturity. At the junction of the N30 and R700 Mannion's Pub sets a very high standard retaining all its architectural character and having a pleasant colour scheme, nicely presented with some colourful flower displays. Further along the R700, at the Graywell Road, the Portofino Hotel sets a nice standard at this gateway entrance. Elsewhere, the town has a number of attractive linked streets and laneways but litter was a problem in some of these. The Waterford approach road was again well presented and grass margins were well maintained here.

General Impression:

New Ross is a historic town with a rich maritime heritage having great potential for the years ahead. The committee is to be commended in helping to ensure that future development is carried out in a controlled and attractive manner.