

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Greystones** Ref: **261**
County: **Wicklow** Mark: **257**
Category: **F** Date(s): **23/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	42
The Built Environment	50	39
Landscaping	50	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	23
Litter Control	50	31
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	31
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	257

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the excellent application with incorporated photos, 3 year plan and map. There are 10 committee members and 50 volunteers on the circulation list who are all doing great work. That is a drop in committee numbers since last year but a substantial rise in numbers of volunteers. Your campaign for increased involvement appears to be paying off. If you could bring on board more people, especially from residents associations and from the business sector, that will help move Greystones towards more cohesion and unity of purpose. The application itself was very comprehensive with well placed photos which helpfully illustrated the points being made. The 3 year plan in the appendix was quite brief, but the sections fleshed out in the actual application. For next year, perhaps the 3 year plan could be reviewed, putting in what's been achieved, and outlining plans again, but with a timescale and lead person indicated. Indicative costs of projects should also be included where possible. Well done Greystones for sustained effort and good luck in this year's competition!

The Built Environment:

The shopfronts and town centre of Greystones are superb. There is an integration of old and new, in a stylish way. From the neatly trimmed hedge of Summerville, to the cheerful exteriors of The Happy Pear and the Hungry Monk, there are many individual style premises and it is refreshing not to see so many global franchises represented. The houses surrounding the harbour area are well presented. There are many fine and well kept private houses and gardens in Greystones. The Beach house complex at the harbour, with Toolan's, is well painted and has window boxes on display. Donnybrook fair is a stylish, contemporary building, as is the complex in town centre with Nosh and other shops. The Garda Station leaves room for improvement, even if it was to plant something into the large tubs.

The Holy Rosary Church is beautiful and very clean, looks recently cleaned or painted.
The Church of Ireland looks pristine with a clean wall out front, and planted area above.
The opening of the Shoreline Centre with swimming pool adds even more excellent facilities to the town.

Landscaping:

There has been a lot of tree and shrub planting activity by the TidyTowns! For the wild areas unmowed verges - should consider mowing a foot at the edge to ensure it gives a cared for appearance while still retaining the habitat benefits. This has been done to excellent effect elsewhere.

The patch of shrubs and flowers dedicated to Mons Patrick Wallace is nicely placed and has year round interest. Some verges along Church Road are quite rough and should be considered for reseeding.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

All along the beachfront walk looks very well. There are ample, good quality sturdy litter bins which appear to be regularly emptied. The benches are in good state of repair, plus bollards where required, and clearly delineated paths. A doggie bin was missing its lid. There are noticeboards here but no naturalist/ flora info seen. This would make an interesting addition plus may help to satisfy environmental activity criteria for the Blue Flag award. The posters by school children were greatly admired. There is great research and planning gone into the Heritage Trail.

There is excellent information on local wild flora presented in your application. It should make for a worthwhile publication and the Wicklow County Council grant towards this was noted.

The areas of new planting were noted, as were the signs promoting the work, and the fact that much of the verges are left wild for habitat enhancement. Please see other section on mowing verges for 1 foot from edge.

Well done for fantastic efforts on improving Kindlestown Woods. Best of luck for steady, continued success there.

Litter Control:

There is a strategic approach to litter control and on-going liaison with the Council. Town Centre was mostly good and clean but there were scatterings a few other places. The beach itself was good, and no litter was seen either on the beach walk. The bins appeared to have been recently emptied. There was quite a bit along the road from the DART station up past the church, on Church Road towards Harbour End, and in some of the housing estates.

Your efforts in undertaking large scale clean-ups such as Mill Lane and Kindlestown Woods has been noted. There are good links with local youth groups, schools and active retirement groups that contribute to the work. Bring banks were well presented.

Waste Minimisation:

Well done to the schools for getting and retaining Green Flags. It is good that there is a liaison member of your committee for schools and for promoting An Taisce projects. It's a pity the recycling centre enterprise has been put on hold but there are other facilities in Wicklow that can be availed of. Hopefully the community garden can go ahead once a site is secured and community composting as part of this. Apart from working with the schools, does the TidyTowns promote waste minimisation with other sectors of the community?

Perhaps a project with the businesses to reduce packaging waste, or promotion of sustainable purchasing choices to householders, etc. Any promotion and awareness raising activities would increase your marks in this section, particularly if working with businesses or other agencies. Perhaps the TidyTowns could organise a seminar/ workshop with assistance from Wicklow County Council.

Tidiness:

The harbour redevelopment is no doubt a major disruption. At least they were seen washing down the entrance area and spraying for dust abatement at time of adjudication. This implies that measures are being taken to reduce the impact as much as possible. There are quite a large number of places in town which could do with weeding at kerbs. There are quite a few rough patches of grass that could do with reseeding also. The reseeded area in front of Lidl was admired so good work done there. The barrier in front of the national school was twisted. I wonder what the plan is for the old Ormond building? The Centra opposite is in a prominent position and would be good if the borders were tidied up. There are several empty commercial premises in town, but most have well painted fronts. Hopefully there won't be too much of a delay before

these are inhabited.

Residential Areas:

Redland's namesign and entrance looked well, and had some nice big green open spaces inside but was generally untidy at kerbs. There was also a scattering of litter.

Burnaby Hill is fabulous with tree lined entrance, shrubs and namesign, however there was also some litter here (mostly drinks bottles and coffee cups). The other Burnaby areas nearby were also looking very well. There is a huge array of facilities in the town – Tennis courts, GAA, rugby club, golf course, etc. The fence around the GAA needs attention.

Charlesland is extremely neat and well maintained. It has a modern look, but there are many trees and lush shrubs to soften it, and it appears quite mature.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Church Road is an impressive tree lined avenue but traffic ramps and barriers towards the harbour end are in a poor state. The roads from the harbour right up to Rathdown Road are all in need of resurfacing. The way in from Wicklow is quite well laid out with clear roadmarkings, planted trees, landscaped roundabouts, cycle lanes and so on. There is good traffic management including large, attractive, pillars on entrance to town. The Fair Trade town signage looks great.

General Impression:

Greystones is an attractive location, placed by the sea but in view of the mountains. It is a pleasant experience to spend time there, shopping and for cafes/ dining. Improvements are seen again this year and congratulations on progress to date.