

Tidy Towns Competition 2012

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Greystones** Ref: **261**
County: **Wicklow** Mark: **271**
Category: **F** Date(s): **16/06/2012**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2011	Mark Awarded 2012
Overall Development Approach	50	42	42
The Built Environment	50	39	40
Landscaping	50	34	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	24	24
Litter Control	50	33	34
Tidiness	30	15	15
Waste Minimisation	20	9	9
Residential Areas	40	32	33
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31	31
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	400	267	271

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome Greystones Tidy Towns to the 2012 Tidy Towns Competition. Your entry is very much appreciated.

Your committee of 6 appears to have too few at first glance until the adjudicator read on to see that you have a number of sub committees to deal with specific areas e.g. project planning. In your next entry perhaps you would let us know the frequency of meetings that the committee and sub committees have each year.

You identify just a few support agencies such as the town council otherwise you seem to be dependent on commercial sponsors, fundraising events, etc.

You mention that the County Wicklow Partnership funded landscaped architects for the refurbishment of the Burnaby Park. Hopefully they will contribute significantly towards the implementation of the proposed refurbishment.

You have two dedicated members with responsibility for liaising with the schools.

Your comments regarding your performance in the 2011 Tidy Towns Competition are noted.

The schedule of events is also noted.

The Built Environment:

You are to be commended for having the La Touche Hotel given a facelift which was seen and photographed. It has greatly improved this area.

The harbour area was very quiet on adjudication day. Unfinished developments are a national problem and are beyond the resources of tidy towns groups to alleviate this problem. Consequently unfinished developments do not have an adverse effect on your marks in this category.

Your adjudicator saw and photographed a number of retail outlets in the town centre (Church Road) including Ireton and Nature's Gold. There are a number of excellent retail outlets in this area although operators of these premises must be careful not to add too much clutter to the footpath.

The library looked very well with hanging baskets and shrubs. Near by a local T.D's constituency office caught the eye.

The train station and its environs were clean, tidy and litter free. The station car park recycling centre and automatic toilet were also clean, tidy, no litter.

Holy Rosary Church was well presented.

Garda Station/Coast Guard premises were reasonably well presented but the 3 planters looked rather sad. The Fire Brigade Station neat and tidy.

Car park and bottle bank opposite La Touche Hotel clean and litter free.

Greystones Rugby Club is a very well presented amenity that is a credit to the club. The swimming pool and community centre are clean and tidy.

The Greystones Town Council offices and grounds looked very well. The grounds have landscaping, trees, shrubs and large ornamental style stones. Adjoining this complex is the south beach car park, children's playground and bottle bank – clean and tidy. As was the DART park and ride facility, although some weed control is needed. Its bottle bank was also clean and tidy.

St Kevin's National School is very well presented with window boxes, flower pots and some shrubs.

St Patrick's C of I is impressive with well-maintained grassed area and shrubs.

Greystones still has a village feel although it has expanded considerably in recent years. The centre has been improving steadily with the addition of attractive boutique style shops, a range of eating options, modern and old style shop fronts all combining to offer a stylish experience.

The success of the Meridian Shopping Centre confirms that Greystones is a thriving village and the arrival of Mrs Robinsons, a new pub, also confirms this a large number of pubs have closed throughout the country.

Landscaping:

The first introduction to landscaping for many visitors to Greystones is the rowing boat, well filled with flowers, on the landscaped area at the Blacklion junction. It was looking very attractive on adjudication day.

This adjudicator knows Greystones well having spent summer holidays there as a young child many years ago and being a regular visitor over the years since then. An abiding impression of Greystones is of mature trees and shrubs and lots of well planted gardens giving lots of summer colour.

Your planting at Watson and Johnston was noted, as was the copse of trees at the toilet next to the children's playground.

Well done on planting the 40 white birch on Mill Road and the additional flowering and foliage plants there. The floral displays on the main street are impressive.

The picnic area is very attractively located on a large expanse of grass and lots of leafy mature trees. All are very well maintained.

Nearby roundabout is nicely landscaped.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Greystones has an abundance of wildlife but it needs to be made accessible to residents and visitors alike. The information panels on the path near the south beach are going in this direction. They look well and are

unlikely to be vandalised but more is needed. Your entry submission focuses on the beaches, north and south and walks connected to them, however your tidy towns group should initiate projects in this category that will earn marks. Your entry submission does not identify any projects undertaken for this year's competition which would earn extra marks.

Litter Control:

In your entry submission you mention that you control litter by going out to clean it up "regularly" and you have regularly taken the older transition year students with you. In next year's entry form may we please ask that you quantify how regularly you have these litter patrols. Also, do you take part in the Spring Clean Up? The frequency of clean ups would also be appreciated.

The anti-dog fowling stencilled messages were seen. The dog awareness day in the park last year was an excellent initiative and seems to have been a great success.

The Coca Cola coastal clean-up day was also a great success.

Tidiness:

The picnic area has a cluttered group of signs on it, two "Welcome to Greystones" signs, one in front of the other. One of the signs is a planning application notice on a metal pole. The planning application time must now have expired and this should be taken away if it has not already been. The local authority should rationalise the signs here.

There is a damaged safety railing on the footpath at the roundabout which needs to be repaired and should be brought to the attention of the relevant authority.

Your prompt attention to graffiti is commended.

Road improvements are welcomed.

Waste Minimisation:

The waste audit being carried out in conjunction with Greystones Chamber of Commerce is a very good initiative and we look forward to hearing the results in due course.

The two new big belly bins are on trial. Perhaps you would include the results of this trial in your 2013 entry submission as it will be of interest to next year's adjudicator.

The principals and practise of recycling, reusing and segregation are very important.

Please consult the Tidy Towns handbook for advice and tips on this category. The first action point given in the entry form for this category is "Promotion of best practice". Tidy Towns groups are expected to be proactive in communicating with their community, both villagers and retailers, the principles of waste minimisation. The waste pyramid used in the entry form to illustrate the relative importance of each option shows that recycling is a less favoured option than minimisation. Minimisation is about reducing the amount of material, including food, that enters Greystones and ends up as waste. It also includes reducing consumption of energy, water, etc. Use the parish newsletter and any other communications method available to you. Ask the Tidy Towns Unit for the booklet Race against Waste. A useful web site is www.stopfoodwaste.ie.

In your entry submission you say that you "strive to maintain best practise and lead by example". In next year's entry submission please provide examples of how you do this. You also say that you "continue to make use of every opportunity we get to publicise the need to minimise waste" again, please provide examples of how you do this for the attention of next year's adjudicator.

Residential Areas:

The residents of Burnaby Park are to be commended for their maintenance of the grassed area at the roundabout at the entrance of Charlesland. The residents of Hillside and Heatherview maintain the grass verges along Bellview Road. They also take care of any graffiti that appears.

New blocks of apartments are being well maintained by management companies. Redford Park did another

major clean up at St Crispin's Cell. The partnership between Greystones Tidy Towns and the residence associations is to their mutual benefit and leading to real enhancement of Greystones.

The adjudicator visited a sample of residential areas and found them to be well presented with well-maintained grassed areas, shrubs, trees, etc. They were neat and tidy with no litter evident on adjudication day. The more mature residential areas have fine mature trees and many have attractive floral displays in well planted gardens. In the outskirts there are many well-presented residences with varying degrees of planting.

Well done to all involved.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approach from Delgany: Black and white "Welcome to Greystones" sign. Long landscaped area with stone surround and "Welcome to Greystones" stone on a base at the end. Attractively landscaped roundabout. "Welcome to Greystones" sign. Nearby picnic area which is very well maintained. A good first impression of Greystones.

That impression increases as one gets closer to the town e.g. rugby club already mentioned in the Built Environment Category, local authority office and landscaped area, etc.

Approach from Bray: "Welcome to Greystones" sign. Extensive tree planting has taken place on the right hand side of the road. The approach is elevated and the views are excellent and create a good first impression of Greystones.

The approach on the Charlesland Road meets the approach from Delgany at the roundabout and shares the good first impression of Greystones.

Roads and streets are sound and clean and road marking upgrades have taken place. No issues arise in this category.

General Impression:

Your plans for the future, prompted by Greystones 300 are noted and the copies of the slide show were very interesting. Your plans for the "Loop" have been noted and also the enhancement of Burnaby Park. We look forward to adjudicating on these in due course.

In the meantime we look forward to receiving your entry in the 2013 Tidy Towns Competition.

Thank you Greystones Tidy Towns.