

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **WEXFORD**  
County : **WEXFORD**  
Category : **E**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 28-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	29
The Built Environment	40	28	29
Landscaping	40	29	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	17
Litter Control	40	22	24
Tidiness	20	17	15
Residential Areas	30	22	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>200</b>

## **Wexford Town, County Wexford**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for the entry form and map. Wexford is an historic town with many delightful attributes. It is noted that the entry is made by the local authority without, it appears, external, voluntary effort by a Tidy Towns Committee. Inevitably, because of pressures on time and resources of the Local Authorities, the establishment of a Tidy Towns Committee embracing the commercial and voluntary sectors working alongside the local authorities is recommended. The major work in progress around the Crescent Quay area continues and we have allowed for it, whenever possible, in our adjudication. The major new sports field and related developments at Clonard are, similarly, nearing completion. The pedestrianisation, even for a period each day, of the Main Street, is applauded. This permits visitors and locals alike to savour the delightful, narrow streets, so much a feature of Wexford Town. The builders' debris and general spoil on the site at John's Gate Street has now been there for some time and remedial action is recommended.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The remarks in last year's adjudication lauding the extensive and diverse range of buildings and built environment are fully endorsed. The County Council (courthouse) provides a splendid and imposing vista, which is a fitting counterpoint to the delightful rubble wall on the new car park. The significantly sized Racecourse building was well presented and suitably painted. Individual buildings, Fitzgerald's men's shop on Main Street and Coleman Doyle Tiles with Style, set a high standard not often emulated by other stores. The extent of signs on Coleman Doyle's might be questioned. The planters at the Bank of Ireland were suitably filled and the unusual treatment of advertising material on Wexford Motor Factors caught the eye. Westgate Tavern was particularly well presented. The presentation of the Church of the Annunciation at Clonard, both the building and its surrounding area, was a delight. The bandstand in St Peter's Square is an interesting element of architecture, suitably presented. The large-scale church in Rowe Street was very striking.

### **LANDSCAPING**

In the landscaping of many open areas and squares in Wexford, there is clearly an opportunity for enhanced voluntary and communal involvement. The Faythe, for example, has the potential for a major and positive

statement which is currently unsaid. The modest planting around the swan motif, while good, is negated by the absence of simply sweeping the area. The flowerbeds and planters, while a good effort, are inappropriate in scale and intensity to their locations. The hanging baskets on the small house in Fisher's Row provide an indication of what can be achieved. The grove of trees in the caravan park at the bridge area is maturing well. Please attend to the accumulation of spoil at the sides of the roads here. The Town Hall grounds are exemplary giving a fine lead to the rest of the community. The presentation of the Bull Ring is good but it would benefit from additional and more extensive planting, ground planting where possible. The planting of trees at the racecourse is applauded and the grounds of the General Hospital were satisfactory. As already mentioned the landscaping around the entrance to the County Council were splendid. The trees on Trimmer's Lane West were most attractive.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Wexford is famous for the range and number of its bird life. The creation and development of appropriate wildlife and bird life habitats within the centre are identified as integral elements to be address by the Tidy Towns Committee in their overall presentation. In many cases, the features are already in situ – the extensive grassed areas in Clonard, for example and, on a different scale, St Peter's Square, could with appropriate planting be major elements of an appropriate food chain which would encourage more diverse wildlife and birds. The services of a local wildlife enthusiast, perhaps discussion with the wildlife officer of Dúchas are recommended as the way forward in devising a suitable, long-term programme in this regard.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Inevitably, the success of Wexford as an important visitor centre carries with it the increased probability of litter. The pedestrianisation of Main Street brings with it a requirement for substantially increased numbers of litterbins. While litter bins generally were available in the main streets, some areas were not adequately provided with this most necessary facility. Litter was noted at Hill Street corner and alarming amounts were observed in North Main Street.

## **TIDINESS**

We have already made reference to and allowed for the extensive main drainage scheme which has been and will continue to be a fact of life in Wexford for some two years to come. The new bridge, completed in an efficiently short time is marred somewhat by the extent of stones and spoil between the road and pavement. The Recycle for Life installations at various locations are worthwhile but that in

Malin Street appeared, on the day of adjudication, to be overdue servicing. The entrance to St Peter's College needs a brush up generally and as a matter of urgency the removal of particularly distasteful graffiti. There is an excellent display at the Talbot Hotel, while similarly the entrance to the vocational school was very well presented.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The residential housing stock of Wexford embraces long-completed, traditional schemes with very substantial additional buildings constructed in recent decades. Infill buildings form an integral part of the overall development and, in most cases, have contributed substantially and positively to the vista. The red brick, Auburn Terrace, is excellent with most attractive, small-scale gardens. The small-scale houses on Skeffington Street were attractive and well painted. The attractive new development at the Laurels caught the eye, as did Ineridge housing estate. The communal grounds of the housing estate opposite the General Hospital appeared very much overgrown and in need of remedial attention. Bayview Drive had excellent, individual gardens and was delightfully presented.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

Wexford is a major town which has tackled its traffic problems with resolve and imagination. The by-pass has clearly removed substantial pressure from the town's road structure and a policy of pedestrianisation has made it possible to enjoy the narrow street scale as they were intended. On the New Ross Road, the amounts of minor spoil at the sides of the road were a disappointment. Signage is in good order and while roads were relatively well-swept, occasional weeds detracted. There appeared to be a policy of sweeping roads to the borough boundary only. In other locations, roads had been swept but weeds had been left, undisturbed, between the road and pavement. On the Castlebridge Road, following the use of weedkiller, the dead weeds had not been removed. The paving in the Theatre Royal Street was of a high order while the Clonard Road surface, in some locations, was below par.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Wexford is a large, thriving, busy, commercial and tourism centre. The efforts of the local authority are commendable. Additional participation by voluntary and community groups would clearly help substantially in addressing the many issues outlined above. The broad brushstroke work currently ongoing if supplemented by the creative energies by the community at large, will serve to make Wexford a truly delightful location in which to live or visit.

