

*"Caring for our environment"*

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

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 02-07-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	28
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	31	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	18
Litter Control	40	22	22
Tidiness	20	16	17
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>198</b>

## **Wexford Town, Co Wexford**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

A large and busy settlement, which is now completing a major development phase, centred largely, but not exclusively, on a radically improved presentation of its waterfront. The attention paid to and the success of its landscaping programme, throughout the town is yielding increasing dividends of enhanced presentation. Thank you for the extensive town plan, the completed Entry Form and the comprehensive supporting documentation. The features of the town are the major building projects in progress and especially the good quality infill houses as in St Joseph's Street and opposite the Pierce Factory. The promenade is an absolute delight and will focus increasing attention on the sea front. Tree planting and seats here are a joy. Throughout the centre roads were well swept and compliments also on the fine clear street signs which are now so much a feature. There seems to be considerable indication and evidence that the Tidy Town's movement however continues to be too much a Local Authority driven exercise without the extent of a desirable community wide involvement in support.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The town has a range of imposing ecclesiastical and civic buildings notably Bride Street Church with its well tended gardens and Rose Street Church. The delightful Bandstand, Fire Station freshly painted and the FAS training centre, at a different scale, were also well presented. Green Acres and St George Guesthouse were very well presented. The very fine new bridge is an impressive statement of civil engineering. Again at a different level the truly delightful Ryan's Optical Medicare occupies a position which is visually important. The River Bank Hotel looked well but here while there were three poles only one flag was flying. No1 and 2 Crescent Quay and Simon's Place Bar are fine examples of traditional buildings. Some structures were overall well presented but with minor flaws which detracted from the total impression. Hilton engineering Ltd was well presented but their name sign ought to be washed. The Gardai Station similarly looked well but was marred by the broken flagpole surmounting it. The County Council Office and Courthouse are most majestic buildings, suitably presented. Sadly the Government Offices in Anne Street were almost without exception poorly presented with excessive amount of spoil in each of the doorways while a number of their windows were extremely grotty.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Tremendous strides have been made under the general heading of landscaping, both in terms of large scale and

cameo opportunities. Wexford General Hospital grounds were well presented as was tree planting at Bayview Drive and the presentation of the communal grassed area was a delight. The Town Hall is singled out for particular meritorious mention as, its display was up to the usual exemplary standard. The grounds of the Church of the Annunciation were a delight while the Festival Grove at the bridge was, in itself, a delightful and appropriate memorial of your famous Opera Festival. The flowers at the Talbot Hotel and the delightful planting at Hill Street caught the eye. The general presentation of the Bull Ring is imposing while the superbly completed promenade is an important and valuable asset to the entire town. The Redmond Memorial Children's Park seemed under utilised and it was disappointing to note the extent of spoil outside the main gate. The sea wall on the Ferrycarrig Road approach has unravelled at a number of locations and needs attention. The extent of tree planting on streets is very impressive particularly at St Johns road and on a number of housing estates.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The fame of Wexford in respect of bird life is of national if not international dimensions. The development therefore of suitable wildlife habitat within the town seems a logical progression. The extensive open spaces at Ard Carman, Clonard or Fishers Row for example, among many other locations, provide suitable settings for such a development. Although requiring patience, the establishment of a suitable food chain is the best way forward for long-term success. It is recommended you consult with the wildlife officer of Duchas or avail of the expertise in the North Slobs in this regard.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

The most avoidable and yet intractable of problems, litter, continues to be a difficulty in Wexford. The joy of the Town Hall grounds was marred considerably by the extent of litter at their gates. Summerhill Road leading to Clonard was very badly disfigured while The Faythe, William Street and especially the Rosslare Road had its disagreeable sprinkling of litter. The provision of suitably sited litter bins in the centre of the town has done much to improve things while the volume of pedestrian traffic in South Main Street brought with it, sadly, its proportion of litter. The vandalised litterbin at the Band Stand should be replaced.

## **TIDINESS**

The Racecourse and area was well presented with stands newly painted. A minor matter but please refresh the price signs over entrance gates. A number of the Disk Parking display signs require washing. The two Recycle for Life installations at Bayview Drive were in use and well maintained. The delightful Metropolitan dry drinking fountain and water trough association would be greatly

enhanced by more comprehensive planting. Some spoil and weeds, although not extensive, were disappointing, notably at the side of roads leading to Clonard. Tree planting here was excellent. The derelict corner at the junction of Johns Street and Johns Gate Street continues to offer opportunities for perhaps short term treatment. Mannix Place was marred by a lot of weeds at the side of roads. The junction of the Ferrycarig Road with that leading to Whitemill Industrial Estate was marred by the potentially attractive infill wall unravelling.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The town has an extensive range of delightfully presented houses many with excellent private gardens. The New Ross approach road is particularly attractive in this respect. The terrace opposite the Town Hall was very well presented, neatly painted, with many hanging baskets. The long established houses along Davitt Road North, were a delight while the new estate at College Green is excellent. Extensive work at Templars Court, Redmond Cove and Pine Ridge Estate were a delight. Individual efforts made by the residents of Bishopswater with hanging baskets are commendable. The well painted houses of Carrigeen are similarly applauded. The excellent individual gardens in Sean McDermott Terrace and, more extensively, at Farnogue Park were a delight. The fine historic houses at Carcue (1874) were well maintained.

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

The feature of the adjudication was the manner which many of the roads had been recently swept and projected a fine neat picture. There has been an improvement in the weed and grass growth at the base of walls and between pavement and roads. In many cases verges were well but not excessively cut back. In other locations the road surface itself was disappointingly below par, particularly at the side of the Clonard Church, for example, at Henrietta Street and South Main Street junction and at some stretches on the Rosslare Road. Castlebridge Road was well swept but a number of the timber horizontal bars are broken and detract materially. The splendid new bridge although, very largely free of weed growth, mar a disappointing extent of spoil at the sides of the pavement.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Wexford Local Authority and Wexford UDC is doing a splendid job in the enhanced presentation of their ancient town. Extensive large scale civil engineering projects such as Wexford Bridge and the Promenade has now been completed while extensive infill and new housing developments continue apace. The pedestrianising of your South Main Street is a success not emulated by many other settlements of similar size. All these are tremendous developments. Some potentially delightful features are not yet displaying the level of engagement with the Tidy Towns

competition as one would wish particularly the potentially delightful Faythe and some residential sectors which could by communal action enhance still further this splendid town which can be traced to pre-Viking times.