

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 09-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	29
The Built Environment	40	29	28
Landscaping	40	31	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	22	22
Tidiness	20	17	16
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	207	203

Wexford Town, Co Wexford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you indeed for all the information sent with the Entry Form. It is gratifying to read that you have the continued support of Wexford County Council, Wexford Borough Council and the Boys Scouts with your efforts. As this was the first time that the adjudicator visited Wexford in an adjudication capacity it was a great disadvantage not to have a map identifying the areas where development is taking place. However most of the places mentioned were visited. Your attachment to the Entry Form was very informative but there is a strong recommendation that your Committee should develop a 3/5 year plan for environmental development in the Wexford town area. This need not be elaborate or expensive and can be done in conjunction with your Local Council, FAS, the South East Regional Tourism Authority (based in Waterford), the Boy Scouts and any other environmental groups together with local residents and your Chamber of Commerce. The purpose of the plan would be to identify what possibly could be done over the next 3/5 years within your physical and financial resources.

You received an in depth report from the adjudicator last year. The following therefore is by way of comment on further progress to date and should be read in tandem with last year's report.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Wexford Town has many civic, public and ecclesiastical buildings and during the adjudication, Bride Street Church, Roe Street Church, St Iberius Church, the Wexford Arts Centre, the County Hall, the Courthouse, Westgate, the Municipal buildings, the Garda station the National School, the Loretto Secondary School and the Theatre Royal were visited. All were presented in an excellent manner. The area of the Bull Ring, the monument (opposite the railway station), the John Barry Memorial, and the Bandstand were also visited. All are being maintained extremely well except in the case of the latter, there was some evidence of litter. Of the older buildings Selskar Abbey is unique. The promenade at the river is exceptional. It was completely litter free on adjudication day and the planting and seats provided created a unique atmosphere.

LANDSCAPING

In the absence of a map identifying where new landscaping has taken place it is difficult to comment other than to say that work at the Redmond Memorial Children's Park was noted as was indeed the fine display at the main roundabout on the New Ross road. Past planting is now

maturing and creates a wonderful ambience in Wexford. Many premises around the town including hotels and guesthouses are obviously getting into the spirit of the movement and in this connection, tubs of flowers, window boxes and hanging baskets, where presented, looked extremely well and are being well looked after. Congratulations to all concerned. The grounds of Wexford General Hospital and the Municipal buildings are maturing very nicely and the many open spaces throughout the town are being very well maintained.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Your comments regarding Redmond Park have been noted and the adjudicator looks forward to seeing this project at a further stage next year. The Wexford Wild Fowl Preserve is world famous but there are many opportunities within Wexford Town to develop habitats for wild birds including areas of the bank of the River Slaney. In the event you might consider contacting Duchas who will be only too willing to assist with help and advice.

LITTER CONTROL

Most of Wexford Town was practically litter free on adjudication day. Unfortunately and, as mentioned above, there was some evidence of litter at the Bandstand and also in the main street. This is an important part of the competition and needs constant monitoring. It must be remembered that adjudication takes place, not just in the main areas, but also in the side streets and housing estates. Constant vigilance is required. In the circumstances the "Litter Free" zone sign in the main street seems somewhat out of place. If you do not already have one, it would appear that there is a need for a Litter Warden. Additional litterbins will also help. Perhaps as part of your 3/5 year plan you will consider a major anti-litter campaign on a yearly basis.

TIDINESS

In general Wexford was presented in a neat and tidy manner on adjudication day. Inevitably there are some examples of open storages which create visual untidiness. Your comment regarding derelict sites is noted and it is encouraging to read that the Wexford Borough Council has also taken action against the owners of these premises.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Wexford has a vast number of housing estates both Local Authority and private. As many as possible (too numerous to mention) were visited and in practically all cases, houses are being well maintained as are gardens which were in full bloom on adjudication day. Open spaces are also being well maintained and landscaped. This type of effort is also a very important part of the competition. If you have not already done so you should encourage representation on your Committee from Residence Associations and perhaps

run a competition amongst them to create friendly rivalry.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Approach roads particularly from Rosslare (both by-pass and direct) and from New Ross looked extremely well and are being well maintained. This too is an important part of the competition as the condition of approach roads sets the tone for the rest of the town. Generally speaking roads surfaces are good although some side streets in Wexford could do with resurfacing. Pavements are in good condition and are being well maintained.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

For the future it is felt that the production of the Environmental Plan will be important. Perhaps there is already one in place which could be revisited. In the meantime excellent work is being done by your local Councils and your Committee. Not unlike many other centres the litter problem is an ongoing one. It is particularly difficult in a town the size of Wexford but there is an increasing consciousness that littering is anti-social which augurs well for the future. In the event please send a copy of your 3/5 year plan with your entry form next year together with a map setting out what work has carried out over and above what has been done this year and in previous years. The adjudicator looks forward to returning to Wexford again next year to report on further progress made. In the meantime keep up the good work.