

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Wexford**

Ref: **392**

County: **Wexford**

Mark: **209**

Category: **E**

Date: **16/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	30
The Built Environment	40	29	29
Landscaping	40	31	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	21	22
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	28
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	209	207

Overall Developmental Approach:

Wexford Tidy Towns Committee seems rather small for such a large town - nine is a very small proportion of the overall population! Your plans to make a list of buildings of importance in the town and the employment of an expert to catalogue the trees is highly commended. The major developments you mentioned taking place in the town were noted.

The Built Environment:

The standard in this category of the competition could have been better. There were rather a large number of shabby neglected buildings and sites. Do discourage the use of plastic signs and encourage their replacement with ones of a more traditional timber variety. Also, discourage the use of curved plastic canopies and replace with ones of a traditional fabric variety such as those to the Centenary Stores. The buildings along Crescent Quay looked extremely well - for example, Commodore Barry Newsagents and La Riva Restaurant. Public buildings, such as the train station and various churches, looked well cared for. Wexford County Council, with its gothic style facade, was well maintained. There are a number of attractive old shopfronts such as Kearney's on Selskar Street, Corry's and Barkers. There are a number of buildings with traditional vertical hanging slates, some of which are in bad condition. These should be restored to their former glory as they are quite unusual and highly significant from both an architectural and historical point of view. The old market building on Common Quay Street looked quite charming. The hospital and grounds looked well on its raised grassy bank with tree above a stone wall. However, its sign was somewhat faded and

some attention is needed here. Nancy Codd & Sons was admired for the subtle palette of colours used and its attractive sign.

Landscaping:

On approach roads, petrol stations could contribute to this aspect of the competition by making some attempt to landscape their forecourt areas. The attractive grassy bank with steps and floral display at either side was admired at Sea View Avenue. The major work to the boardwalk area, with its paving and seating areas, was admired. However, a number of new trees were either broken or dead. It was a well used area on a sunny day and the inset timber boards in the paving were a clever idea as they make reference to the original boardwalk. Perhaps the area on the opposite side of the bridge, adjacent to the railway tracks, could be considered for a future project? 1798 Street looked well, with its trees either side. Work was underway to the New Ross roundabout on the day. Trimmers Lane was admired with its attractive overhanging trees. The adjudicator noted the ongoing protests in relation to the charming St. Peter's Square. An attractive incidental garden off Clifford Street with its display of old farm machinery was admired. An attractive display of flowers to Associated Upholstery was glimpsed through their archway. Perhaps the old water pump on John's Street could be restored to its former glory. The town garden at Mannix Place was admired, with its pyramidal trellises and railway sleepers. The attractive stone walled garden of the Garden of Remembrance was greatly admired.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your plans to enlist the help of a specialist in order to list the trees in Redmond Park is to be commended. Your plans in relation to the ponds and wetlands areas are also good. Perhaps you could consider involving the local school children in drawing up a list of wildlife habitats in their area. This could be incorporated with a nature trail.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day could have been better. Some papers were noted on the Rosslare Road and along the main streets of the town. A particularly bad outbreak was noted at an entrance to a large derelict site on Bride Street. Litter was also apparent in the vicinity of the West Gate and along the pavement gutter to the quay side.

Tidiness:

Weeds were apparent at the kerbsides of some cottages on the Rosslare approach. More was evident outside the National Irish Bank. Dead weeds were also apparent at an ESB utility on O'Rahilly Place. Do discourage the practice of fly posting. Shabby advertising hoardings, both along approach roads and in the town centre, created a bad impression - in a number of cases the posters were lifting. Advertising hoardings do give a rather cluttered appearance and impression.

Residential Areas:

The standard in this category of the competition was good. Your estate competitions are obviously paying dividends. The Carrigmore Estate looked well maintained - Parklands and Bayview Drive were also fine. Some attractive brick B&B's on the Ferrycarrig Road contribute well to the streetscape in this location.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The rocky outcrops on the Rosslare Road create an interesting approach to the town. Here the grass verges had been cut, but do make sure to remove grass clippings when this is complete. This approach has attractive landscaped areas with mature overhanging trees. The Ferrycarrig approach was also well maintained. In the town centre pavements were in bad condition.

General Impression:

Wexford is a town which has a great wealth of history. It contains many attractive and unusual traditional buildings. It had a somewhat neglected air on adjudication day. Attention must be given to neglected and abandoned buildings and sites in order to improve this aspect of the town's presentation.