

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Wexford**

Ref: **355**

County: **Wexford**

Mark: **214**

Category: **E**

Date: **17/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	31
The Built Environment	40	29	29
Landscaping	40	31	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	24	21
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	25	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	29
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	214	209

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you indeed for all the information sent with the entry form and for the map which was most useful on adjudication day. With such a large centre it must be difficult for a small committee to act in a "Tidy Town" capacity but, nevertheless, you are doing excellent work. Reading through the documents which you sent it would appear that your main role is one of co-ordination amongst the various bodies who are involved in the development of the town e.g. Wexford County Council, Wexford Town Council, Chamber of Commerce, FAS etc. In such a large centre this is the only practical approach and indeed you are to be congratulated on it. Your development strategy and plan are excellent. In the case of the later however it is suggested that you might try to identify, say over the next three years, a list of projects to be achieved on an annual basis through your own initiatives and are using the facilities of the other bodies concerned. In this way it will be easy for you to recognise the successes and failures as, very often, trying to do too much in one year can lead to frustration. Many other large centres are successfully adopting this approach. You received from the adjudicator last year an in-depth report. The following therefore is by way of comment on perceived further progress to date and should be read in tandem with last year's report.

The Built Environment:

Wexford has many public buildings and those visited including the two Catholic Churches, St Iberius Church, County Hall, Municipal Buildings, Selskar Abbey, the Theatre Royal, the John Barry Memorial and the 1798 Memorial. All are being very well maintained as are their surroundings. The

Boardwalk Area is a wonderful addition to the town and additional works being carried out there were noticed on adjudication day. There are still some derelict sites to be seen throughout the town and your comments in this respect have been noted. The Adjudicator looks forward to hearing next year of the results of the approaches being made to the owners. Commercial premises, in general, are being well maintained; some could do with refurbishment. Shopping complexes looked well and their car parks are being kept neat and tidy. The Hospital on the New Ross approach and the Garda Barracks also looked well. Bearing in mind the comments of last years adjudicator, this aspect of the competition is being well catered for.

Landscaping:

The Wexford and New Ross approaches to the town looked particularly well and has improved greatly over the years due to continuous planting of trees, flowers and shrubs. Trees planted throughout the town are now reaching maturity and create a lovely atmosphere. Perhaps part of your future planning could be devoting your attention to further areas throughout the town that would benefit from tree planting and the planting of shrubs that would give some colour on an all year round basis. While some does take place you could encourage the provision of further containerized plantings, hanging baskets, window boxes and tubs of flowers which, albeit in the short term, provide lovely floral displays as in the case of, for example, Kilkenny City. Trees planted on the Boardwalk appear to be maturing but also seem to be suffering in the high wind.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Bearing in mind the comments made by last year's adjudicator under this heading your pending discussions with Wexford Town Council have been noted. Hopefully they will bear fruit. With its River Slaney and foreshore, Wexford is ideally placed to develop a high quality wildlife facility which would also be an additional attraction for visitors.

Litter Control:

Bearing in mind the size of the centre, litter control is being fairly well handled. There was however some minor littering in the main street and some of the adjacent ones and also on approach roads. Perhaps, some additional astutely placed litter bins might help. In the past, centres found it to their advantage to give talks to schoolchildren on this subject. The Adjudicator wonders if such a practice is carried on in Wexford.

Tidiness:

Because of its size all areas in the town and its outskirts could not be visited but in general, what was seen was presented in a reasonably tidy manner. Some on-pavement storage was noticed and this is to be discouraged as it can be quite hazardous for the elderly or for people with failing sight. As mentioned in last year's report there is still a number of advertising hoardings to be seen particularly along approach roads. This too should be discouraged. It creates a very bad impression.

Residential Areas:

Again, and because of its size, it was not possible to visit all of the residential areas and housing estates in the town. Many, however, were visited and were found to be well maintained. In most cases, open spaces are being well looked after and many houses had gardens in full bloom which created a lovely atmosphere. This aspect of the competition and the involvement of your local residents in it is very important. You cannot succeed without this type of co-operation. Well done to all concerned.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approach roads, particularly those from New Ross and from Rosslare, were very nicely presented with mowing and hedge trimming having taken place. The Ferrycarraig approach also looked well and in general road surfaces are good. While there are still instances of where pavements need repair, in general they are being well maintained.

General Impression:

The huge amount of traffic in the town is creating its own problems in terms of its overall general impression. One would love to see, for example, the further development of landscaped pedestrianised areas but, in the present circumstances, this is not possible. Excellent work however is being done in other areas such as landscaping, litter control and tidiness and these must be continued. Maintaining what you already have is critically important in the competition. For next year, and again because of the size of the centre, when sending in the map perhaps you would indicate on it where specific projects have been carried out for 2005. This will enable the adjudicator to have specific site of them. In the meantime keep up the good work.