

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Wexford**

Ref: **470**

County: **Wexford**

Mark: **221**

Category: **E**

Date: **29/06/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	32
The Built Environment	40	29	29
Landscaping	40	32	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	26	24
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	26	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	29
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	221	214

Overall Developmental Approach:

Your development plan 2005-2008 is excellent. Tremendous work has already been done in Wexford aided and abetted, no doubt, by our small committee, the work of which is greatly admired. The local support which you are getting from Wexford County Council, Wexford Town Council, ICA and local sponsorship is a reflection and an appreciation of this effort and long may it continue. Thank you indeed for all the information sent with the application form and for the map. Could it be once again asked however that, as far as the map is concerned, that (1) it would be smaller and (2) it would be marked clearly with projects which have taken place since the last adjudication and which you wish the adjudicator to have sight of. Wexford is such an enormous center it is practically impossible to see everything unless the specifics, in terms of recent developments, are marked out. As mentioned last year your main role, it would appear, continues to be that of a co-ordinating one which is obviously being very successful if one is to judge by the amount of independent yet collective developments which are taking place in Wexford and which are appropriate to the competition.

The Built Environment:

A considerable time was spent in Wexford this year visiting major public buildings and while it is not intended to name them all, those that were particularly admired included County Hall, Municipal Buildings, the County Hospital and its grounds, Ely Hospital and its grounds, Bride Street, Rowe Street Church, St Iberius Church, the Garda Barracks, the Bull Ring and the Faythe. Various schools

were seen on the day, all of which are being very nicely maintained as are indeed are all your public buildings. The Boardwalk area continues to improve yearly. Trees there are now maturing very nicely and public seating is very well maintained. It is a wonderful facility and greatly enhances the Quay area. Commercial premises throughout the town, generally speaking, looked well. Some areas along the Quay however look dull. Shopping complexes are also very well presented as are, in some cases, there parking areas. The area of the Railway Station is well maintained as are the many hotels throughout the town which have grown in size over the years. Some dereliction is still to be seen. Hopefully this will be the subject of further work by Wexford Town Council and that the benefits of this work will be seen during the 2006 adjudication.

Landscaping:

Landscaping presented on the Rosslare and New Ross approaches was very much admired as indeed it was at many centers throughout Wexford including the Faythe, the grounds of the Municipal Buildings, the grounds of the two Hospitals, School grounds and, as already mentioned, in the Boardwalk area. In fact throughout Wexford town it was practically impossible not to see some lovely landscaping around every corner augmented by hanging baskets, window boxes, tubs of flowers, planters etc which reflect great credit on their providers. Continue with this and with the planting of trees and shrubs. The latter in the long term require very little maintenance and are there for prosperity.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your objectives in your plan are noted and are very praise worthy. Unfortunately the Wexford Wildlife Reserve is outside the adjudication area but, nevertheless, you have wonderful facilities for such a development on the river Slaney and your foreshore. Do give some thought to this. Perhaps in consultation and in conjunction with your partners you might consider a wild bird project for next year even it was only as simple as feeding tables and nesting boxes in a local school, a wildlife board and perhaps a piece of literature identifying for residents and visitors alike what can be seen locally. In the event the Tidy Towns Handbook will be useful to you and it is another way of gaining additional marks in the competition.

Litter Control:

The size of the centre makes complete success under this heading almost impossible but, in the event, Wexford was practically litter free on adjudication day. There was some minor littering to be seen on approach roads, in the main street and in the vicinity of shopping centers. Excellent work is obviously being done but it is an area of the competition which needs constant monitoring.

Tidiness:

The town looked fairly tidy on adjudication day. The huge amount of traffic creates a feeling of "untidiness" as does, in some cases, indiscriminate parking. However the condition of all the areas of the town which were visited on adjudication day reflects very highly on the sense of environment which obviously your commercial and private residents have. As mentioned in last year report there is still a huge amount of signposting and one wonders whether, in conjunction with you Local Authorities, an effort could be made on reducing the volume.

Residential Areas:

Many residential areas, too numerous, were visited and, in practically all cases, were very nicely presented and well maintained. There are some lovely new housing estates in Wexford which greatly enhance the fabric of the town. In all cases open spaces are being well maintained and some had beautiful landscaping. Where possible the vast majority of houses had lovely gardens in full bloom and added greatly to the overall effort. Terraced and street side houses also contribute greatly to this effort by the provision of window boxes, hanging baskets and tubs of flowers and all are to be highly commended for this.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

As mentioned in this report under different headings approach roads are very well presented and create a nice impression of Wexford town. Road surfaces, in the main, are excellent and pathways are being very well maintained also. Great credit is due to your Local Authorities for this. In your co-ordinating role however you might consider to liaise with your Local Authorities on the strimming of grass verges and hedges on approach roads particularly during a wet summer.

General Impression:

Excellent environmental work is being carried out in Wexford at all levels. Your committee is very small but is obviously very influential. Further in the competition will come through careful planning and attention to detail but you must never neglect the maintenance of what has already being achieved which is the backbone of your effort. The adjudicator looks forward to returning to Wexford again next year to see further progress made.