

Tidy Towns Competition 2016

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Wexford** Ref: **458**
County: **Wexford** Mark: **298**
Category: **G** Date(s): **13/07/2016**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	50	51
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	41	43
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	42	43
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	29	30
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	12	14
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	43	43
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	35	36
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	37	38
TOTAL MARK	450	289	298

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Wexford is very welcomed to the SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition for 2016. Thank you for your completed entry form, map and associated documentation. Your map was particularly useful in identifying the best routes to walk and drive. Thank you also for your enclosed development plan (2014-2017). You have an impressive array of committees and sub committees dedicated to special tasks. Action days and Action Events are always good ways in generating local interest and creating awareness. Well done on your work in supporting the Purple Flag initiative. You also engage with a number of agencies that you can call on for support, resources and funding if needed. It is with this continued support that Tidy Towns groups can continue to develop and grow. You also create awareness and communicate with the community through a wide and diverse range of tools. Which communication tool do you find most effective? In creating any community involvement this would not be possible without the help and support of the local schools. The projects that they help you with should be applauded. The Schools also have to be commended on their huge collection of Green Flags, through the Green Schools Programme. The information and projects they have completed is a wealth of knowledge and guidance to the rest of the community. It is evident that through your sixteen years in the competition the community has developed greatly. This is the ethos of the competition and it is reflected in your application.

Built Environment and Streetscape / An Timpeallacht Thógtha agus Sráid-dreacha:

Wexford is somewhat distinctive in its streetscape. Its wide promenade and railway line, heritage buildings and modern development give uniqueness to the streetscape. The Wexford Chamber Office and new entrance to Redmond Park as you point out is the most significant built environment project in the town this year. This is now an example of an excellent development. You list a number of current projects in this area, these too will only add value to the Streetscape. The Railway Station was noted, but could do with freshening, not sure if the Christmas lights are still a good addition. The modern building of the tourist office blends seamless in its location. The TK Maxx and Talbot Suites have injected a new sense of vigour and life into this area. Hopefully some new businesses will move into the Crescent Quay area. This would help inject some new life into this area. Other buildings that stood out in the town were the Credit Union, Vine Restaurant, South East Radio and Green Acres. Moving upwards in the town through the bustling pedestrian street, the BullRing was noted and admired. Selskar Abbey was visited and the Town Wall, both an important part of the towns heritage. The Church of the Immaculate Conception was also visited and admired. In this category, you are progressing well and on-going projects will continue to enhance and develop. Continue to be mindful of your existing streetscape and any new developments are in keeping with the surrounds.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Your "flowering the town" project is an interesting initiative. While the plan is simple it does require a huge amount of resources and time. The full season watering service alone is a huge task. The project however is evident as you move through the town. You are to be complimented in this approach as you are in the colour coordinated approach.

The hanging baskets and planters at the Crescent are applauded as they certainly brighten this area. Peters Square was a joy, all your hard work here is evident. The splash of seasonal colour and sustainable planting are commended. Street furniture in this area is freshly presented and the trees add to the vista of the area. This is an area that could still be developed further. Your biodiversity site is excellently presented. This is a good example of an open space that was created with care and design. There is a dead tree in this area that needs to be removed. Redmond Park is a credit, it is maintained and manicured to a very high standard. Redmond Square allows the passer by an opportunity to rest and take in the busy surrounds. Your new Min Ryan Park when developed will be an exciting addition to the town. While you have an abundance of native trees in your open spaces, some trees need dead foliage removed on the promenade. Some of the metal surrounds are also impeding growth. A metal surround was also noted on a tree at the Town Wall that needs attention. Do continue to develop flower beds and planters that contain year round planting. This gives year round colour and can reduce the impact of costs on seasonal planting.

Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fiadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádurtha:

The key issues in this category are Education, Conservation and Celebration. This should be your guiding light in this category. The new Biodiversity Garden at Selskar Abbey is an interesting project. Your Bee Friendly programme is to be applauded. Remember the key issues of this category. Education is all about knowledge of local species and habitats. You are making progress in this area, continued work with the schools will allow for a full list of local species and habitats. One this is achieved comes conservation. This is about the maintenance of important wildlife areas. Once this has been achieved you can celebrate. This involves taking good wildlife advice and communicating it to the wider community. This all can involve adding to your number of information boards at important wildlife sites. You can then host events such as a dawn chorus, bat walk or tree planting day. This gets the community involved and raises awareness. You are already working hard in these areas. Continued work will progress you further in this category. Well done to the Naturalists Field Club on their project and to the Trees for Wexford Campaign.

Sustainable Waste and Resource Management / Bainistiú Acmhainní agus Dramhaíola Inbhuanaithe:

Congratulations on the achievements of your first Green Flag in 2015 and on your acknowledgement of the work that was put in by a former supporter of Wexford Tidy Towns. The rescue plant initiative is an excellent example of reusing and the results are an added bonus to the town. The supermarket promo events are another excellent way to promote events such as battery recycling, green dog walker campaign and collection of cigarette butts. The future proof project is another exciting initiative. Do continue to update us on results that may come from this new venture. The roll out of Brown Bins is another important step. At the core of this category is reducing the amount of waste produced in the first place. It is about looking at savings across areas such as water, energy and transport. Have you completed any surveys to identify the waste being produced? This can be conducted within the community and with local businesses. Your European Week for Waste Production is another good project. Once any surveys are completed and do include results, you can then plan projects around the results. This will highlight key areas that need to be targeted.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Within a town the size of Wexford and its population it is difficult to patrol and monitor for litter. There was unfortunately a huge volume of litter visible on the day of adjudicating. Litter was noted on the promenade, the Crescent, Redmond Square, Selskar and the biodiversity site. Ways to address this would be to identify litter black spots and look at regular patrols of litter black spots during peak seasons. You already have very good projects and approaches to combating litter, so very little is needed to correct this problem.

The town in general produced an air of tidiness and order. Some areas are in need of attention. The trees surrounds on the promenade are in need of painting. The safety bollards on the corner at the Crescent need to be replaced. Some signage and poles need to be cleaned and freshened. Some graffiti was noted at points around the town. St Peters Square was a joy and is a credit to all your hard work. You have definitely undertaken projects that have enhanced the town. Well done on current and future projects.

Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:

Your "Adopt a Street" initiative is an excellent approach to ensuring local communities care for their area. Fishers Row certainly continues to impress. It is an example of how a local community can come together. They are once again complimented for their hard work and the presentation. You have identified a number of projects undertaken. Your work at Talbot Green is noted. Bishopswater estate was also noted. Hopefully you can find a solution for "The Knock" area, so it can be improved. There are many individual residents that caught the eye of the adjudicator. You are to be complimented on the presentation of your homes. Redmond Road contains an interesting mix of businesses and residential use. Well done on your work on the Old Cinema and the Old GPS building. The Children's play area in Redmond Park, is very well maintained and was being enjoyed on the day of adjudicating. Keep up the good work in this area.

Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:

The approach roads to Wexford town are to a high standard and make a positive impression as you enter the town.

The road surfaces are of good quality and the works completed on the Rosslare Road will only help. You have used the disturbance to grass verges to good effect. The work on the car park at Ferrybank and relocation of the recycling centre adds to this area. The Caravan Park, Swimming Pool and Playground are well maintained and presented. You acknowledge in your application that you have an abundance of lanes and back streets. As you note these are merely passageways. Unfortunately they can be seen as areas to loiter and litter. You have acknowledged your work in this area. Continue the good work.

Concluding Remarks:

Wexford was a pleasure to visit and adjudicate. Well done on this year's application. Do continue with the pride and commitment that is evident. You are wished continued success.