

Tidy Towns Competition 2011

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Wicklow** Ref: **244**
County: **Wicklow** Mark: **274**
Category: **E** Date(s): **08/06/2011**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2010	Mark Awarded 2011
Overall Development Approach	50	38	39
The Built Environment	50	38	40
Landscaping	50	38	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	26	26
Litter Control	50	33	33
Waste Minimisation	20	10	10
Tidiness	30	18	18
Residential Areas	40	31	31
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30	31
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	400	270	274

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to the 2011 TidyTowns competition. Your participation is important to the TidyTowns movement. Thank you for the filled up entry form, and the substantial amount of back up material. The book entitled "Wicklow Town – A Gallery of Shopfronts" is a wonderful guideline for the repair and renewal of Town Centre Shopfronts, and ensures a picturesque well planned town. The press articles and Facebook page postings are most informative and interesting covering recent press articles in relation to Wicklow TidyTowns. Therein are details of the activities of an enthusiastic group of people. The other additional information is most helpful, with spectacular photographs supplied, which are, in my view, capable of winning prizes in photographic competitions. The old saying "a picture tells more than a thousand words" comes to mind as in these photographs we see fantastic pictures of Wicklow and its people. In particular I admired the photographs of the Pet Deposit – Be responsible – clean it up, great pictures with a discreet but meaningful message, well done. Thank you for the map which makes identification easy of the places of interest in the town. You are holding plenty meetings and it is great to report that there is a growing interest in your activities. The contacts you have established with the various agencies, and the support you are receiving from them ensures that TidyTowns matters are to the fore, and you are therefore well positioned to receive help, finance and sound advice. The close liaison you are cultivating with the schools, and their participation in the Green Schools projects, is a great investment for the future well being of the schools and the general public in Wicklow. Thank you for the kind welcome to your town.

The Built Environment:

Having read over the large amount of support material and photographs it was a pleasure to visit and see those fine structures for myself. Those photographs of course don't tell lies and a stroll around the town was very much enjoyed. The standard of planning is striking and gives this town a distinctive flavour. Other notable buildings were The Grand Hotel, St Patrick's Parish Church and The Church of Ireland, St Patrick's B.N.S.,

Government Offices Wicklow, Marine House, tin pin bowling arena, East Glendalough School, The County Council Offices, Wicklow Gaol and The Dominican Campus.

Landscaping:

Again I refer to your photographs and it was a pleasure to drive around and see these delights for myself. It was a great experience to see the diversity of colour of the shrubs, trees and flowers. There is a natural landscape to Wicklow town with the river, bridges, mature trees and the backdrop of great aesthetics. Up across the road from Leitrim Street I went into the little park to enjoy the scenery. I came across a wonderful graveyard near the Church of Ireland and it was beautiful, and congratulations to all concerned with its upkeep. Great landscaping was admired at the one way system that divides the road, and it was repeated again outside the Robert C Halpin Memorial, and I loved the railing.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

There are great amenities for the walkers and cyclists in this town, and the best example of this are the sides of the road from the Industrial Estate to the traffic lights on the Dublin Road, a distance of a few kilometres. There are footpaths and cycle lanes. Other areas had similar amenities. Therefore the cyclist and walker are well catered for. The park at Leitrim Street has a fine tarmac walk by the banks of the river with a variety of wildlife to be enjoyed. The pedestrian bridge had some people fishing. The heritage trail signage is most impressive, as are the interpretative panel and the lectern style one.

Litter Control:

The control of litter is good and your ongoing efforts are recognised. The Dog Foul Awareness week is a great undertaking and this is the first I have ever heard of such an initiative, the signs and the photographs are wonderful. I know from my own experiences with this type of situation that you will get a very positive reaction from the community. The "lets Clean Up Wicklow" campaign as well as the national spring clean up ensures that huge amounts of litter are collected. There is great commitment shown when volunteers help out by picking up and sorting out litter.

Waste Minimisation:

The registration for the Green Home Programme is a step in the right direction. We look forward to the promotion of composting, and good to learn that home composting units are available at the recycling centre. I inspected the recycling centre and was most impressed with its layout and tidiness. We have made tremendous strides, as a nation, from the days when nearly everything went to the landfill dumping grounds, and this becomes more obvious when we see the great work that is done at this facility. Great to see containers for plants and seating made from recycled plastic. The green school initiative is a great programme where the children become more aware of the best practice in the preservation of our local environment.

Tidiness:

The level of weed control was good It is great to behold areas where the cables are underground. A few isolated daubs of graffiti were to be seen, but we never know when people will "strike" again. There is a huge amount of untidiness in Wicklow with the unfinished housing estates, but this is no reflection on Wicklow and its people as this is a huge national problem, and indeed much worse in other locations. Road works near the Grand Hotel left that road untidy. The busy main street is a joy to behold, and a model of tidiness.

Residential Areas:

I read your submission where you have fostered a good relationship with the residents groups, and some of these well established estates are superbly maintained. The traditional town houses are well presented and at one with your efforts to present Wicklow at its best, and to be fair the same applies to the housing estates. There are a number of unfinished housing developments in the area and we hope work can start soon to finish off the estates.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

I admired some great stone walls along the side of many roads, and they have a kind of forever freshness about them when they are well maintained. The NRA has control of a lot of the roads approaching the town and their works are carried out in a careful and well planned fashion. I loved these cycle lanes and footpaths. Road works are in progress near the Grand Hotel. Overall the quality of the roads is quite good around the town. The signposts are clean and distinct. Planting of trees, shrubs and flowers along the sides of the roads give a welcome approach to the towns at the outskirts. The verges are tidy with neatly mowed grass in many places.

General Impression:

You are striving hard to present Wicklow at its best over all the categories of this competition. I wish the committee and the townspeople all the best for the future.