

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Greystones** Ref: **261**
County: **Wicklow** Mark: **247**
Category: **F** Date(s): **13/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	42
The Built Environment	50	37
Landscaping	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	247

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your detailed entry form, clear map and photographs, which make it much easier for an adjudicator to allocate marks! It is refreshing to note that whilst you have a core group of 14 that there are actually 35 active members of Greystones TidyTowns. You are commended for dividing into sub-committees to deal with specific projects - this should minimise the threat of volunteer fatigue. In order to maximise marks in this section it is essential to submit a 3-5 Year Development Plan and perhaps a sub-committee could begin working on this for your 2009 entry? It is imperative to set out simple achievable goals. You mentioned that you felt that your 2005 5 year plan was perhaps too ambitious. By setting and achieving small scale plans and executing them to a high standard will have the knock-on effect motivate the troops! Your co-operation with Greystones Chamber of Commerce, Community Affairs and Tourism Committee and local Residents Associations has been noted.

The Built Environment:

The floral display along the main shopping area clearly a co-ordinated effort on behalf of the business community and for this, they are highly commended - the impact is wonderful. It seems unfair to mention just a few as all looked well - but here goes anyway! O'Briens, Escape, Supervalu, Greystones Travel, The Hungry Monk and The Burnaby. The Playground looks great and was very busy on this sunny morning. The new Meridian Point development looks clean and fresh. The new Swimming Pool and Comunity Centre is nearing completion and we look forward to this for TidyTowns 2009. The Dr. Hickey Clubhouse looks fantastic and Greystones Golf Club too was admired. The Holy Rosary Church looked great as did St Kilian's. The Beach House too was freshly presented.

Landscaping:

A welcoming flower bed was noted on the Delgany approach to Greystones. Here too a well maintained picnic

area was noted. Lengthy tracts of neat lawns interspersed with mature trees were greatly admired along Mill Road. Burnaby Park, as ever, looks well. The landscaped bank at Woodlands Lodge was fantastic. A couple of rose beds were in full bloom close to Roches Pharmacy but unfortunately there was an abundance of weeds too. The area indicated on your map to be planted in July 2008 did not appear to have been completed by the 13th of the month. Good luck with your campaign to get a sponsor for the commissioning of a Diarmuid Gavin Designed Garden.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your ongoing work in this section is commended. Thank you for the photographs indicating the sea flora in Greystones. There is huge potential in Greystones to gain additional marks here and in time I have no doubt this will be achieved. Have you contacted the Heritage Officer in Wicklow County Council regarding funding your proposed Heritage Trail? You have identified a further two locations for conservation and this is commended.

Litter Control:

You are congratulated on your largescale plans with regard to litter control throughout the year and it is encouraging to note that the scouts and schools have been of assistance. Litter control is quite good along the main streets of Greystones. However, back areas are more problematic. Litter outbreaks were noted at the car park at the DART Station, at the car park at Greystones Golf Club and on Burnaby road and this is unacceptable. Dog litter bins were noted at various locations and this is commended. There was some evidence of dumping at the bring bank near the playground and this is unfortunate. Odd pieces of paper were noted on the beach but nothing too serious.

Waste Minimisation:

It is good to note that you segregate and recycle waste from litter picks. Three bring banks were noted in Greystones, one on the Delgany Road, one at Trafalgar Road and one near the playground. Your plans to hold a public information workshop in association with Wicklow Council is good. Please let us know in next years entry if this has taken place as it will yield additional marks. Are any of the schools in Greystones involved in the Green Schools Programme? This should be encouraged.

Tidiness:

Many of the main street areas neatly presented in Greystones however, again, it is the back areas that require attention. Kerbside weeds were in abundance along St. Vincent's Road and in this area too, the public signage was damaged, rusty and a number were covered in graffiti. An overgrown bank which appears to border the golf club was overgrown on Whitshed Road. A collapsed brick planter was noted on the Main Street and this should be repaired.

Residential Areas:

Neatly presented hedges were greatly admired at Manor Avenue. Residences along Whitshed and St. Vincents Roads are a credit to their owners. Many of the residences at Excalibur Drive and Rathdown Road are presented to a high standard. Applewood Heights and Chapel View were noted for their clean fresh appearance throughout and neat green areas.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The fresh cycle lane, good road surface, clear markings and new paths look great at Blacklion Manor. The Balcklion area in general looks well. Paths throughout Greystones vary widely from excellent to quite poor in places. With regard to the uncut grass on the Rathdown Road - it should be cut back approximately one foot from the kerb to ensure a neat appearance whilst also allowing wildlife to flourish. It is beginning to overspill and kerbside weeds are taking hold. Ongoing work on the path at St. Bridgets was noted.

General Impression:

Greystones is showing huge improvements year on year and you are congratulated on your progress to date.