



Wicklow Town - Rathnew LAP Submission - Report

Who are you:	Group
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File

Submission to WCC re post boxes in Wicklow.docx, 2.63MB

Wicklow Tidy Towns wishes to make a submission to the 'Draft Wicklow County Development Plan 2021 – 2027', Chapter 8 – Built Heritage, Appendix 4 Record of Protected Structures, Pages 73 – 77

While Wicklow town has no free standing post boxes it does have a range of wall / lamp mounted post boxes covering the entire historical period from approximately 1880 to 1930, covering the reign of 1 Queen and 2 Kings of Great Britain and then the early years of the Irish Free State. There are 6 of these post boxes of which just 1 currently exists in the Register of Protected Structures.

Information has been gleaned from 2 websites: www.irishpostalhistory.com and www.buildingsofireland.ie (the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage or NIAH)

- At the side of the Courthouse, Market Street, the oldest, remaining in use, post box in Wicklow town, was dedicated to Queen Victoria (and thought to have been erected around 1880). The NIAH reference is 16003527 and the coordinates are 331869.193857



- At the junction of Leitrim Place and Bath Street is the first of 2 remaining post boxes in Wicklow town dedicated to King Edward VII. It is thought to have been erected around 1905 (Edward was King from 1901 to

1910). The stability of this post box is in jeopardy due to pressure from a tree in the garden behind. The NIAH reference is 16003057 and the coordinates are 331634, 194093



- At the junction of Church Hill and Brickfield Lane is the second remaining post box in Wicklow town dedicated to King Edward VII. Again, it is thought to have been erected around 1905. The website www.buildingsofireland.ie notes that 'lamp boxes, post boxes with rounded tops designed to be fixed to lamp posts, are more vulnerable than wall or pillar boxes, so the survival of



this one and it's continued use is **notable**'. This website also notes that 'the decorative lamp post, which has bars at the top which would have been used as a ladder rest by the lamplighter, also demonstrates a **high standard of design and execution**'. The NIAH reference is 16000038 and the coordinates are 331186, 194290

- The final pre-independence and, still remaining in use, post box in Wicklow town is located opposite the Grand Hotel at the corner of Wentworth Place. Thought to have been erected around 1915 it was dedicated to King George V. The NIAH reference is 16002015 and the coordinates are 331196, 194012



- **A Post box with the 'Saorstát Éireann' logo is already in the Register of Protected Structures. The reference is W21 on page 75.**

www.buildingsofireland.ie states

'Post boxes with the Saorstát Éireann logo are relatively rare, as following the foundation of the Irish Free State older post boxes were simply painted green, rather than replaced. The celtic interlace and the harp on the door add decorative interest, and demonstrate the skill involved in design and execution. With a manufacturer's name W.T. ALLEN & Co. London, this box is similar in design to the C type wall box manufactured by them during the reign of George V (1910-1936) with its off-centre collection plate holder, although it lacks the cipher and 'Post

Office' lettering, indicating that it was a modified design commissioned by the Free State government'.



- The final one proposed is located in the boundary wall to the Dominican Convent. www.buildingsofireland.ie states: 'An unusual post box, **having an aperture to the rear to allow for school and convent post to be posted without having to leave the grounds.** This large size wall box, known as the Type A, is of a type manufactured by W. T. Allen of London during the first half of the twentieth century. A post box is indicated at this point on the 3rd edition OS map, and it seems this may be an Edwardian post box, but with the door replaced



the foundation of the State and the establishment of the Department of Posts and Telegraph'. The NIAH reference is 16003454 and the coordinates are 331744, 193723.