

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **NEWMARKET-KILKENNY**
County : **KILKENNY**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 17-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14
Landscaping	40	25
The Built Environment	40	27
Litter Control	40	33
Tidiness	20	15
Residential Areas	30	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	300	197

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

It is good to read on the application form of the support and goodwill towards the Committee and its work, and that you have received excellent co-operation from a number of local and national organisations.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Few committees have initiated projects under this heading so far. Your concern for birds nesting has been favourably noted, and the pond for water-fowl. You might consider introducing more duck, since mallard seem to favour this location.

LANDSCAPING

Planting was much admired, especially along the Knocktopher road where the mixture of shrubs and herbaceous plants has been well chosen; and also and in the grounds of the Church and School, where a proverbial 'riot of colour' was seen on adjudication day. The roses were especially fine, and the lawns well mown.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Church has all the unpretentious charm and dignity of all old village churches, now unfortunately somewhat rare. It is a beautifully conserved building. The other interesting architectural feature, the Coach House, is well maintained. The School is particularly pleasant, largely on account of its floral displays. A derelict site with a rusty iron roof was noted on the Ballyhale road - this may be the one commented upon last year.

LITTER CONTROL

There was no significant litter on adjudication day. Congratulations.

TIDINESS

Your slogan is obviously being taken note of. Newmarket was almost entirely weed-free as well as litter-free, unsightly wirescapes and inappropriate signage are absent.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There are no residential areas in the sense of housing estates - individual homes, rather, and these are very well looked after. Very fine farms were seen. Special mention must be made of the house opposite the Church, with its garden spilling over the roadside. It is good to see "cottage-style" gardens preferred to more formal layouts on private properties.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Road surfaces are unusually good, and the verges of the approach roads were trim on adjudication day. The recent wall building is admirable. New stone gate pillars were seen in the course of construction. There is obviously a tradition of stonework in this neighbourhood, and it is good to see this continued. As mentioned by last year's adjudicator, it is a pity if one member of the community stands in the way of good development, but if so there is little to be done about it, apart from continuing to keep the pressure up. Certainly wall repairs in certain neglected spots would give a great 'lift' to the surroundings. Some signposts could do with repainting.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A small village with a great sense of environmental cohesion, very carefully looked after.

SECOND ADJUDICATION

The town looked very colourful and attractive on second adjudication day. We would recommend that you devise a 3 - 5 year plan in conjunction with local organisations which you work with, as this will help you to devise a co-ordinated strategy for the improvement of the town. The planting throughout the town was a notable feature and all of the householders who planted their gardens so richly are to be commended. A few houses and boundary walls still need freshening up. One aspect of the town which should be a priority is the repair of stone walls, particularly along the Ballyhale road. Another problem area is gates - some of which need painting. As you are reaching the higher levels of the competition, it is important not to overlook detail. For example, the signpost at the crossroads is rusty and needs attention. We look forward to seeing continued improvements in the coming years.