

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **NEWCASTLEWEST**  
County : **LIMERICK**  
Category : **D**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 23-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18
Landscaping	40	32
The Built Environment	40	26
Litter Control	40	23
Tidiness	20	14
Residential Areas	30	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>198</b>

## Adjudicator's Comments

### OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

From your detailed response to the questionnaire you would appear to have a very good working relationship with the relevant local statutory bodies. For next year's competition it is important to have formulated a three or five year plan of action for your town in order to give yourselves a positive direction for resolving the problem areas within the community.

### WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Perhaps the best approach to this issue of wildlife/natural amenities would be to contact local environmental groups and experts who could advise you and provide you with the information you need to tackle this broad-ranging issue. From there, you can then identify the wildlife habitats of your area and see what varieties of animals, birds, fish and plantlife these attract. Involve the local schoolchildren in this project-they will hopefully bring a fresh enthusiasm for the wealth of wildlife in their locality.

### LANDSCAPING

The standard in this category was quite high as the town boasts many unusual and attractive landscaping features. The modern monument with the cross on Maiden Street was admired, although the railings need a fresh coat of paint. The planted area behind the shrine on Cnocan road is quite charming; however the dead flowerbeds behind the statue of Our Lady looked unfortunate, and the railings need a fresh coat of paint. The riverside area was a hive of activity. The benches inset into the wall should be freshened up before next year. The charming bridge, and copious attractive stone walls looked magnificent. The area in the vicinity of Statoi looked quite desolate and neglected. St. David's graveyard sported a hedge with a stone wall base and a magnificent grotto with lots of permanent planting, geraniums, marigolds and a large hedge as a backdrop to it all. The Famine cemetery sported some new interesting concrete gates. The graveyard was well maintained, but it was rather weedy to the base of the stone boundary wall. The Charte de Bretagne park had an attractive avenue of trees, but was quite overgrown either side of the road. The grounds of Ballygowan were very well maintained.

### THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Both the commercial and public buildings of Newcastle West looked reasonably well on Adjudication Day. The Community Centre was reasonably fresh, with a little bit of staining. The forecourt area is still quite bare, despite the new trees to the back of the boundary wall. Presumably the prefabs will be replaced eventually. The Post Office with its original brass stamp dispensers outside was quite charming. Scoil Iosaf and the internal walls to its car park needed some freshening up. The Garda Station sported some lovely rose beds. The County Council offices were extremely grubby, and the yard looked quite messy. Although the boundary wall of the National School could be freshened, the grounds were neatly presented. The Swimming Pool was in a similar condition. The Fire Station looked well, while the Health Centre should be freshened before next year. St. Ita's hospital looked reasonably well, although the back boundary wall was very grubby, while the grounds were quite Spartan-looking. The stone walls around the Church of Ireland and its grounds looked very well. Some of the buildings near the junction of the square and the street with the Post Office were quite flaky. Whelan's opposite the Garda Station had a very grubby gable wall and messy yard area filled with metal barriers and a lot of dereliction to the tin sheds on the other side. The concrete block two-storey flat roofed building in an apricot colour was absolutely filthy. The Old Turnpike was very fresh in a yellow colour with green trim and red door and window frames. O'Connor's was also very fresh with an abundance of colourful plants for sale. Maghuna's fish shop was also very fresh with a couple of hanging baskets overflowing with petunias and geraniums. The two banks looked magnificent with lovely plastered window boxes bursting with red and pink geraniums. The buildings to the square generally looked well, although Rambling Cabs and Mamma Mia's both had very grubby signage. Work was ongoing to the Desmond castle. The hand-painted sign to the Wool Stand is badly stained and could be freshened up.

#### LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was quite good on the day, apart from Charte de Bretagne Park, which was extremely badly affected.

#### TIDINESS

The overall impression of the town of Newcastle west was of a neat and tidy one on Adjudication Day. The car park was extremely neat but somewhat desolate. A messy weedy yard area with a filthy boundary wall, at Boherbue created a bad impression. The makeshift broken down corrugated iron shed near the Convent of Mercy should be replaced. Some building materials appeared to have been abandoned beside the river, where some flyposting was also apparent. The Ardagh road was quite weedy to its kerbs and verges. The telephone boxes by the L&N car park were quite badly stained.

#### RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Both individual houses and estates looked to be well maintained on Adjudication Day. The Bishop's Court development has been reasonably well landscaped. The attractive stone cottages with magnificent gardens on Bishop's Street were greatly admired. The beautiful garden with an abundance of aubretia on the Ardagh road looked magnificent, as did many of the gardens on this road. Most of the boundary walls needed attention, although the houses themselves were very fresh. Some charming cottages on Cnocan were greatly admired. As was an ivy clad long single storey cottage on the Killarney road. The new housing estates on Boherbue and on the Limerick road look well. Hopefully they will be landscaped to a high standard. An estate that appeared to be Hazel Grove from the map - ( it had no name-plate) was quite overgrown, and some of the boundary walls needed attention.

#### ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The standard of maintenance of the streets of the town was quite high. Cnocan looked particularly well with well trimmed verges and a display of wild daisies along it. The Limerick road was quite overgrown nearer to town. The road leading down to the Famine graveyard was rather neglected.

#### GENERAL IMPRESSION

The busy town of Newcastlewest made a good impression on this adjudicator's first visit to the it on a sunny June day.