

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **NEWPORT-TIPPERARY NTH**
County : **TIPPERARY NORTH**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 05-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16
Landscaping	40	25
The Built Environment	40	26
Litter Control	40	24
Tidiness	20	11
Residential Areas	30	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	300	184

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The detailed submission with attached map indicates clearly the commitment of and the hard work being undertaken by a committee which has as its main objective the overall development of Newport. This committee is one of a small number that has the ability to harness all sections of the community and to mobilise them into positive action. It is also able to forge links with the Local Authority and other relevant agencies which result in positive benefits to the town and its surrounds. This approach is a good example of an integrated programme with planned achievable objectives and realistic deadlines for completion. The committee is to be congratulated for their input into a very detailed and worthwhile submission and above all the secretary deserves praise for an excellent presentation.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

As with many submissions this section has been largely ignored, except by a reference to providing a duck and swan sanctuary at the riverbank. There is a section in your submitted plan where wild life could be accommodated. As a start why not incorporate a competition for schools that will allow scope for initiative, seek the assistance of an environmental specialist to draw up guidelines for such a competition. This will help identify the wildlife habitats in and around the town and species of birds, animals, and insects that frequent them.

LANDSCAPING

The involvement of the horticultural department of Tipperary County Council is to be welcomed. The proposed plan will certainly make a major contribution to the town in terms of uniformity of planting arrangements. At present while there is good landscaping work going on it is slightly fragmented, and its effect is in most cases isolated. The linking together of various parts of the town by planting is an excellent idea.

On adjudication day there was work ongoing in and around the river bank at the bridge and on the Killoscully Road. The Riverbank area will be an excellent amenity area when completed and also it is probably the ideal place for a nature/ wildlife project. The stone restoration work being carried out was excellent complemented by lovely flower and shrub beds. On the Limerick Road there were some nice examples of well maintained beds none more so than in front of the day-care centre; these were also complemented by healthy copper beech trees. The Ballinahich Road was also undergoing a mini transformation in terms of planting, the trees and flower beds on that road take the bland look off the housing estate. The shrub bed at the cross roads junction on the Killoscully Road is very effective and is a good introduction to Newport from this approach. Trees and shrubs opposite the Church and Convent are maturing giving the place a settled look. There is nothing more to add except to say that the comprehensive approach to landscaping in the town will make the place even more attractive. Newport is always a nice place to visit especially on Munster Championship days.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

At the outset I must commend the committee for the section in the proposed plan which deals with the built environment. It proactively tackles issues such as dereliction and properties in need of repair in a positive manner, encouraging owners to effect improvements, and offering to undertake work where necessary. I had noted quite a lot of negative issues in my original adjudication notes but all have been highlighted in the submission as in need of immediate attention. It is expected that the derelict houses in Cork Street, Jail Street and Main Street will be at least be painted by next year and similarly with properties in Chapel and River Lanes. In general the standard of presentation of buildings was very good. The Church and Convent are impressive buildings as one enters from the Limerick approach but the church railing needed painting. The National School was also in good condition but the boundary wall needed painting. The Vocational School was well presented with well landscaped gardens. I would advise a brighter colour scheme the next time the place is being painted. The Bridge is the centre of an

ongoing programme of revitalisation in that whole area of the town. Give consideration to enhancing even further by possibly putting up lamp standards as has been done in some other towns. Quite a number of the shop fronts have retained their original facades which is to be commended. Hickeys Grocery on Main Street is a good example of this. The business premises that deserve mention for their efforts are `Cronins` ` Ryans Public House` and `Newport PO`. A number of premises need to be painted but there was a large number of flower boxes on show this year.

LITTER CONTROL

The litter control was patchy on adjudication day. The centre of the town was acceptable apart from a few small pockets around the junction at the Corner House. The outlying areas need to be constantly monitored , for instance the Murroe Road had littered scattered on the sides of the footpath. There were similar situations on both the Thurles and Ballinahinch Roads. The proposed litter programme has made recommendations for two new bins. This is to be welcomed as they are badly needed.

TIDINESS

In general the town and surroundings were neat and tidy with a few exceptions, for instance weed control was poor in some places. A glaring example was the Telecom Building. The Community Centre needs further improvement in terms of tidiness. Some houses on the Killoscully Road need the frontages tidied up. A collection of old cars in front one of these houses gives the place a dirty look. The Litter/ Tidiness Programme should address these issue as soon as possible, certainly before next years competition.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

It is a pity that the nice scheme of council houses on the Ballinahinch Road could not be painted in a combination of acceptable bright colours to complement the colourful planting schemes that are being put in place. The houses on the Cork Road were generally well kept some with lovely gardens the weed problem seems to have improved since last year. Marian Park estate was well presented on the day, except for a few pockets of litter on the green areas. The Tullow Estate was acceptable a but there was little litter here and there. The proposed plans for landscaping all three estates should be implemented as soon as possible as it will revitalise these areas and show the residents that they are not forgotten about .

ROADS STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The condition of approach roads varied. All need some form of attention or other. At Killoscully Road all grass margins need to be cut back slightly and the `Newport` sign needs re painting. The Murroe Road needs its grass margins cut back as does the Thurles Road near the GAA Grounds which incidentally are very well maintained with car park area in front nice and tidy. The Ballinahinch Road has some overgrown sites adjacent to houses and also the very untidy Telecom Building. As part of your future plan be sure to highlight and address any untidiness on approach roads; after all they are the introduction to the town and do create impressions good or bad.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The Tidy Towns Committee have put together a comprehensive plan for the further development of Newport. They have acted in concert with all other organisations in the town and surrounds and have mobilised support into positive action as can be seen by what has been done especially in the last few years. The task of most committees when confronted by awkward issues can be often daunting but full marks for the proactive manner in which this committee has tackled such issues. The result of this endeavour will benefit Newport and hopefully improve its standing in Tidy Towns even further.