

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **NEWCASTLE-WICKLOW**
County : **WICKLOW**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 09-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	23
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16
Landscaping	40	23
The Built Environment	40	23
Litter Control	40	24
Tidiness	20	10
Residential Areas	30	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22
General Impression	10	5
TOTAL MARK	300	164

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Welcome to the new format of the Tidy Towns Competition. The adjudicators wish you well in your efforts. Thank you for your completed questionnaire and map which were helpful during the course of adjudication. The adjudicators look forward to the presentation of your detailed five year work programme next year - try to set out some innovative ideas in this.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

It was nice to see the stream by the Bridge Inn well presented but, unfortunately, small sprinklings of litter were noted. Newcastle is fortunate in having coastal marshes so close to it. These represent a unique wildlife area - try perhaps to provide information display signs for the marshes, particularly near the bridge and perhaps a viewing area down by the marshes. There is potential for greater nature conservation in the village - a good starting point would be to identify the wildlife habitats in the area and see what species of animals, fish, plants etc. these attract. Why not get involved with your local environmental experts and groups who could advise you and provide you with the specialist information you require.

LANDSCAPING

The maintained area at Oak Blossom was well presented on the day of adjudication. Perhaps some additional planting would benefit here. In light of the fact that it is a picnic area, why not put up some information about Newcastle itself for visitors? At the rockery near the shop, the new raised wall was noted. However, it could have been better presented and the adjudicators feel that the raised bed is pointless without corresponding effort with planting. Also, try to re-seed the grassed area opposite. A very good presentation was noted at the car park by the stream. Well done in this regard. The adjudicators noted a nice presentation opposite Urells. The roses were very attractive but try to paint the seat and also reset the kerbing by the B&B.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The new development of Watch Tower House is very well presented. Well done. The Bridge Inn was also looking well at the time of adjudication. Newcastle Community Centre looked a bit drab on day of adjudication - could anything be done to improve its appearance? Weeds were also evident in the car park. Allowances were made by the adjudicators at the location of the new Oratory, although grass had been cut at time of adjudication. Outside Quinns stores was litter free and the Church grounds were well presented. The premises to the right and opposite Urells is really quite bad. The adjudicators recognise the problems involved here - perhaps, in the short term, efforts might be made to paint these premises if possible.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was not too bad this year. Small amounts, such as some broken glass, were noted in the car park of the Community Centre. There was also some litter at the bus stop. It was good to see that the areas outside Kellys, at the telephone kiosk and at the bridge were all litter free. Well done.

TIDINESS

There was a good presentation under Tidiness this year. Weeds in the car park took from the overall appearance at the Community Centre. The new stone wall at the rear of the Community Centre that was being developed was noted. Try to watch the grass growing up by the tennis court fencing which can take from the overall appearance. It was nice to see the bottle bank in the car park of the Community Centre. The re-surfacing of some of the road has also helped improve the appearance. Overall, while tidiness was not too bad this year, you must maintain vigilance.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Overall, the effort under this category is very good, apart from the area at Seamount Drive. Within Seacourt Park, there was excellent individual efforts noted again this year, particularly the first two premises into this park. The area was litter free but weeds by the kerbs need to be dealt with. Within Seamount Drive, broken trees were noted and weeds were a problem. The grassed area was characterised by uncut grass and worn grass which needs re-seeding a relatively poor presentation here. The newer section of this residential development (to the left hand side) was very tidy and litter free, apart once again from weeds by the kerbs. A very nice new stone entrance was noted at Claidub. The farmhouse on the approach road from Rathnew was also very well presented. Castle Manor is a very attractive residential development, which is relatively well maintained but weeds were noted growing on top of the pillars at the entrance.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

On the approach road from Rathnew, improvements were noted this year with new surfacing and road widening having taken place. At the 30 MPH sign, grass verges had only received a rough cutting but were okay. The Newcastle sign needs to be painted and a new stone wall was noted on the right hand side. The approach to Newcastle from the Church was well maintained this year. Along the Sea road, grass verges had received only a rough cut and some more effort is needed here - perhaps include some road widening. On the approach road from Kilcoole, little attention to detail had taken place. There was only a rough cutting of grass verges and the Newcastle sign needs to be cleaned.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The general impression is that while the village of Newcastle was relatively litter free, neat and tidy this year it is evident that more of an effort could be made. You are maintaining some of the grassed areas and building stone walls, but you must pay attention to other projects. For example, the rockery near the shop was badly presented this year, as were, in most cases, approach roads. The adjudicators look forward to the presentation of your detailed work programme next year and try to come up with some innovative ideas and suggestions that would be of benefit to Newcastle. Good luck in this regard.