

*"Caring for our environment"*

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

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 02-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	29
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	32	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	22	23
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>198</b>

## **Newcastlewest, Co. Limerick**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for submitting such a comprehensive plan and completed entry form. You have laid out an ambitious plan for the next few years and much of the work will need the full backing of the community and several agencies. Much of the proposed work relates to upgrading of existing developments and these should be tackled initially. You will need to phase your work according to the availability of support. However, there is little of the plan achieved to date and its success will be judged on the amount you complete. You should, at the beginning of the year, list a number of projects that can be completed by your own resources and liaise with other agencies for those that require assistance beyond the control of the committee. Do not rely on other agencies to solve your problems as the spirit of Tidy Towns is community effort.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

You have a very large area to control and the town was bustling with traffic on adjudication day. You are fortunate to have so many fine historic buildings, which you should highlight and present to as high a standard as possible. The castle seems locked up - with no indication of opening hours. The buildings praised in last year's report looked well again this year and some have further improved. The Maxol Filling Station was poor in presentation. You have a plethora of very attractive traditional type shopfronts which are a distinction of the town. Indeed, the trading characteristics are full of atmosphere and should be proving attractive to visitors and locals alike. You should build on this distinction - especially in an age when similarity is so predictable. Your strong point is still the square and the recent developments near the Tourist Information office are reasonable. You still have a traffic problem in areas, although the extra car parking spaces are acknowledged.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Sadly, the excellent work of former years has been allowed slip - especially along the riverside and duck island. The little riverside walk across the footbridge is littered including beer bottles and overgrown footpaths. The three flags should be removed and replaced with new ones - especially the National flag which is no longer commanding dignity. There are a number of open spaces throughout the town that would benefit from a clean up. The area opposite the Texaco Station on the Limerick approach is very unattractive. Also the open space area beside the well presented Ballygowan entrance is in need of improvement. Scoil Mhuire Ide is well presented. The memorial opposite the Church is well presented and most informative in layout.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

This new section is well catered for in Newcastlewest and you

have many opportunities to promote wildlife in the area. The duck island is attractive. The tree planting, hedgerows and grass verges on the approach roads all contribute to the propagation of wildlife.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

You have dropped a mark here and litter control was not favourably in evidence on adjudication day. There is a litter trap at the avenue entrance beside the A.I.B. The river, between the two footbridges, had a good deal of litter. At the corner opposite the attractive Ardan nursery there is an unacceptable collection of wheelie bins generating an amount of litter that is quite unsightly at this strategic location.

## **TIDINESS**

While the two principal approach roads were very well presented, some areas within the town are untidy in appearance. Sometimes this is due to poor parking control and beyond the control of a voluntary committee. New road openings are now giving views of premises from different angles and some roofs in particular are untidy and need cleaning or painting.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

You have scored well in this section and the many new housing estates have potential to further increase your standard. Developers should be encouraged to finish well and special landscaping should be applied to new estate entrances. Castle View Housing estate was reasonable but did have some litter in evidence. Beechwood is very attractive and a good example of fruitful co-ordinating. Bishops Close has potential for improved presentation. As a committee you should tackle the problem of street names. These hardly exist and most towns of similar size to Newcastlewest have attractive bilingual signs erected on all streets and housing estates.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

In general road surface is good. Some side and back entrances need improvement. The entrance beside the Desmond Dry Cleaners is very poor in presentation. New commercial developments should be encouraged to make their side entrances attractive, especially where infilling is concerned. The Failte signs on the approach roads are excellent.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The town is coping well with the great amount of traffic it has to accommodate. The Square in particular and the footpath developments of recent years are well maintained. Your challenge now is to maintain the market town atmosphere and further highlight your historic strengths by presenting your fine buildings to a high standard. You have an added asset in the river which should be presented well with effective riverside landscaping.