

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **NEWTOWNCASHEL**
County : **LONGFORD**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 15-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	43	43
The Built Environment	40	31	31
Landscaping	40	34	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	23
Litter Control	40	35	35
Tidiness	20	16	15
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	33	31
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	243	239

Newtowncashel, County Longford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your neatly typed out questionnaire and the excellent map. You have the right approach to development. This again is being shown by your progress with the quarry project. The adjudicators await, in eagerness, its completion.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The J. Hopkins premises was very well kept. The pump was simply presented with no fussy planting or painting. The presentation of the Heritage Centre is wonderful and an example for other centres to follow. Mike Conway's is well presented and M. Flynn's was reasonable. The Garda Station is well painted. It is nice to see that it is occupied again. Casserly's Post Office looked well and the planting on the opposite bank was magnificently maintained and presented. Pairc Naomh Ciaran was a credit to the sporting community and the carpark was very well maintained. Renovation of the church tower is commended and the church itself is well presented. Pump beside the quarry area also well kept. The school was pleasantly presented. Hill Hall looked very well as did St. Mary's Church. The Health Centre was well painted and well presented; however, perhaps a few tubs with red flowering plants would make a nice impact?

LANDSCAPING

It was nice to see some fuchsia hedging in the village. The village is well landscaped and has some very nice features. The water feature looks well and the small park was well maintained. Planting could be of one colour or complementary colours to make a greater impact.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The quarry is an ideal area as a suggested nature reserve. Already a great number of flowers species can be seen and when further work is carried out on the site, it is important that these are encouraged rather than landscaped out. A great deal of landscaping may not be needed - for example poppies, large daisies, buddliaea, foxgloves, fuchsia and a number of our native grasses would grow quite happily in this environment and self-seed. Expert advice on the growth and maintenance of wildflowers is required before work is carried out. The black fencing is commended. It is also commendable that the development of trails and walks are being investigated in this area. The side roads and laneways are very peaceful and picturesque and most suitable for walking.

LITTER CONTROL

One piece of litter was spotted in a hedgerow on the day of adjudication - otherwise the village was spotless. Litter bins are well placed and well maintained

TIDINESS

The village was very tidy on the day of adjudication.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

A well kept white house had a profusion of rose bushes in front of it. All residences in general were well presented. A yard area in view which was less than tidy.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Longford road approach was as meticulous as ever. The walls, hedges and railings are nicely presented. Barley Harbour Road was well cut back and well presented

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Newtowncashel is a joy to judge. The sense of community and the pride shown by the community in their village is an example to many throughout Ireland. The adjudicators are waiting in anticipation for the completion of the quarry project. Note also that bilingual signs are important and any additional signs/boards erected should have some information in Irish. Congratulations on your continued hard work.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (9/8/97)

Every opportunity of integrating and displaying the connections to the surrounding countryside has been availed of, while the continual development of additional features to the village has made any visit a memorable experience. The high standard of maintenance to the entry roads is consistent on all roads and yet allows each approach to be of different character. The development and extension of theme colours (such as yellow) and the display of strategically placed sculptures ensures a very cohesive ambience to the various areas of the village. It is the planting of new trees that the village perhaps needs to investigate further options. Many of the varieties are of an exotic or highly horticultural nature, and their current choice will offset the present connection with the surrounding countryside in future years. Native species and perhaps the employment of trees along the main road in the centre of the village may connect the outer edges of the urban area in a more sympathetic manner and could be an extension of the proposed new works to the quarry (which is to be tackled in the near future). Reducing the extent of tarmac on some portions of the road in the centre of the village could improve the sense of scale and charm which is associated with many parts of the village. The Committee have carried out an excellent programme of ensuring a tidy and appealing environment.