

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **NEWTOWNFORBES**
County : **LONGFORD**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 11-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	23	23
The Built Environment	40	22	21
Landscaping	40	24	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	10	10
Litter Control	40	18	16
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	23
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	157	154

Newtownforbes, County Longford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for submitting your completed questionnaire and map - they were most useful. A 3-5 year plan is still required. This need not be too complicated and should set out objectives for the Committee over the next 3-5 year period under the different headings. It is also useful to have it when liaising with the authorities.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The convent on the corner is nice but will require a coat of paint before next year. The Nursing Home also requires a coat of paint. Caseys Lounge is well presented - well done. The Castle Inn uses wood nicely and had some fine window boxes. The RC church had some lovely stone work and was well presented and there were lovely hanging baskets on the Parish Hall. Take care not to clutter the outside of shops too much. Apart from seeming untidy and being a hindrance on the pavement, they detract from making any specific impact. Some shop fronts could also consider more traditional signage when renewing them. The Protestant Church looked well as did Eden House with the fine stands of trees in front of it. It was good to see that local crafts are being sold in the Newtownforbes Co-op. There were some lovely windowboxes outside a school on the Kilshee road -well done. The sports community grounds was tidy though bare - some tree /shrub planting would benefit it. The High Cross is an important asset.

LANDSCAPING

Tree maintenance i.e. the cutting off of side shoots, removal of weeds from the base is very important and is required for several trees in the town. The use of native species should be considered rather than species such as the Leyland Cypress - Hawthorn, beech or privet can have a more unifying effect on the outskirts of this type of town

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

This question was not answered in the questionnaire. There are a myriad of habitats in and around this town - woodland, churchyard, grassland, hedgerow etc. These all have their own flora and fauna. Use local expertise to assess the existing elements of wildlife and set out ways to encourage further wildlife e.g. the use of certain shrub species.

LITTER CONTROL

This was generally good in the centre of the village and there were a number of strategically placed litter bins. One or two pieces were spotted on the approach roads.

TIDINESS

An election poster still required to be taken down. Some weeds in the gutters and the condition of some road signs detracted from

the tidiness.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There is nice planting in front of Castle Gardens. Climbing plants could be considered for the wall area. The estate beside Eden House required its road repaired. There was some wonderful landscaping at the estate behind the Protestant Church - though some rusty basketball equipment needed to be removed and there were quite a number of weeds in the gutter here. The estate up near the Nursing Home was well presented and some houses had some lovely hanging baskets.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The signpost on the Sligo side had disappeared and the untidy area before the landscaped area detracted from it. Several signs around the town required attention. The 30mph sign on the Kilashee road required repainting and the grass area required cutting back. The Longford road also required some further cutting back.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Newtownforbes is a nice town, however, it would benefit from a traffic calming experiment. The speed of some of the cars through the town was dangerous. The use of Irish is encouraged in the competition and this should be remembered when erecting signs/boards. Setting out clear objectives for the next few years will clarify problems and potential - good luck with your endeavours.