

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **NEWBLISS**
County : **MONAGHAN**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 24-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	22	--
The Built Environment	40	12	--
Landscaping	40	18	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	--
Litter Control	40	24	--
Tidiness	20	12	--
Residential Areas	30	15	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	19	--
General Impression	10	4	--
TOTAL MARK	300	145	--

Newbliss, County Monaghan

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The return of Newbliss to the National Tidy Town Competition is most welcome. However, the adjudicator is of the opinion that community participation is very limited and a serious effort should now be undertaken to encourage greater co-operation at all levels. Plan well ahead for next year and seek the co-operation and advice of state agencies in this regard.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Most public buildings were well presented. However, in general, too many buildings are in need of better presentation and the many derelict buildings are unsightly. On the credit side the adjudicator was impressed with the Village Shop and building next door (1927) and the Stag Inn with colourful hanging baskets and window boxes. Do repair the broken glass (window) in the market house. A lot of work can easily be identified under this heading and should have a priority rating in your future plans for the village.

LANDSCAPING

The existing work being carried out by the local authority will benefit Newbliss greatly. However, it is important for the overall presentation of the village that the private sector also make a contribution by way of a new programme of planting to include trees, shrubs, flowers etc. The care and attention of open spaces will also enhance the presentation of Newbliss.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

This is a new category in the competition. The emphasis is on the conservation and enhancement of wildlife habitats (woodlands, hedgerows, rivers etc.). You need to identify areas of interest under this heading and engage the services of a local wildlife expert to identify an action programme which would enhance these habitats and make them more accessible.

LITTER CONTROL

There was very little litter in evidence on the day - obviously your appointment of a litter warden has been worthwhile. However, the number of litter bins should be increased and located strategically throughout the village. Bins should be presented well and emptied without delay when necessary. A good performance under this heading has been rewarded.

TIDINESS

Untidy open spaces, derelict buildings, poor road surface and badly presented boundary areas mitigate against you doing well under this heading. The adjudicator is aware that local authority work is ongoing at present and has allowed for this. However, in general the overall presentation of Newbliss was most

disappointing. Hopefully, things will improve significantly when all the work in the area of the main street is finished and a number of flower tubs, hanging baskets, window boxes etc. are in place - these will greatly freshen up the streetscape.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The local authority housing has not maintained the high standard of presentation achieved in 1995. What a pity. Some well presented private houses were noted by the adjudicator. The greater use of stone for boundary walls should be encouraged - the attractive wall on the Clones Road was eye catching.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Overall, approach roads could be presented better - untidy verges and open spaces, poor road surfaces and signposting in need of attention were all identified by the adjudicator as creating a negative impact. Side entrances and back areas should also have a priority in your future work programme. Not a good performance under this heading.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

To progress in the competition you need to formulate a work programme for a 3/5 year period which will create impact and transform the overall presentation of Newbliss - this can only be achieved by a serious commitment on the part of the community working in harmony with the local authority. Seek the co-operation of state agencies in formulating your work programme. A new focus is now required.