

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **NEWCASTLE-TIPPERARY STH**
 County : **TIPPERARY SOUTH**
 Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 30-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	--
The Built Environment	40	26	--
Landscaping	40	25	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	--
Litter Control	40	16	--
Tidiness	20	14	--
Residential Areas	30	20	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	--
General Impression	10	6	--
TOTAL MARK	300	183	--

Newcastle, County Tipperary SR

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Newcastle is warmly welcomed back to the Tidy Towns Competition in which it has an enviable record. Thank you for the fully completed entry form together with detailed map of the centre, the comprehensive number of photographs and also the Environmental Plan 1997-2000. Thank you also for the heritage walks and trail together with their maps. All of this documentation was very useful on adjudication day.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Newcastle is richly endowed with historic buildings of merit and character. Molough Abbey was very well presented with appropriately cut back grass and suitable planting at the end of the approach roadway. The bridge and walls on the approach were very well presented. There is however currently no less than 7 signs at the bridge turning, which might allow for some rationalising. The Church and grounds looked very well with hanging baskets located outside the front wall. The Post Office and other shops in this recessed area all looked well but there is a danger of a sense of clutter arising from the extent of produce stored in the foreground. The private house at the right hand side of the junction, currently stripped of its rendering, looked delightful. Additional planting of suitable wall clinging roses might further enhance this dwelling. Nugents Pub is a delight. The Community Hall grounds were very well presented. The building itself would benefit from repainting. The Craft Centre has had a fine repainting job. The School and its grounds looked delightful and we applaud the flying of flags. John O'Donovans Foodmarket was well presented. The ancient Church, always a delight, was very well presented on adjudication day.

LANDSCAPING

As mentioned the School gardens were a delight and the painted top of the front facing wall particularly caught the eye. The GAA grounds looked very well and set a very high standard that other sports grounds would rightly envy in both their entrance area and the boundary wall. The cemetery grounds were equally well presented. The stone work and gardens at the shelter looked splendid. The very fine stone flower beds and trees on Goatenbridge road was particularly good, set off as it was by well presented grassed areas.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

There were a number of excellent individual garden displays in the Liam Lynch Terrace. The small amenity area approached by a narrow, riverside pathway has the potential to be an absolute gem. Planting is suitable and sufficient and the picnic tables very pleasant. Unhappily it was very badly marred by litter. The River is the ideal habitat on which to build a vibrant wildlife and birdlife population. The provision of suitable nesting boxes and feeding tables and the introduction of berry producing shrubs would

accelerate the process already begun. Hedgerows on all approach roads are another excellent wildlife habitat. The large grassed area in the housing estates similarly offer splendid opportunities in this regard. Is there a local enthusiast who could advise the Committee further in this regard ?

LITTER CONTROL

The provision of litter bins throughout the centre was adequate with the exception of the riverside amenity area. There is an urgent need for energetic remedial action in this area which was sadly disappointing on the day of adjudication. Throughout this centre in lesser quantities litter was noted. It is never an easy task to change the mindset of some in a community but prevention will certainly be helped by the provision of more litter bins of suitable size, located in strategic positions.

TIDINESS

The presentation of Newcastle broadly is of a high order. Commercial premises and private houses were well presented. The use of additional screening is suggested where, having regard to the nature of some commercial activity, it is difficult to present a neat and orderly face to the world. Appropriate screening would serve to soften any adverse impact.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The terrace of houses looked very good with pleasant grass verges in the centre of the village. The whitewashed house close to the storage depot for Bell Ferry containers was a delight. New houses on the Clogheen road and the Liam Lynch Terrace houses all looked well and were free of litter. The provision of communal flower beds or rockeries in the large grassed area in the housing estate is suggested.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Approach roads in general were well presented. The village nameplates were fresh and suitably sited often with floral embellishment. The 30 mph signs were well painted, although the nameplate on the Dungarvan road was obscured. The pleasant dry-fill rubble wall on the left-hand side on approach from Cappoquin is unravelling and would benefit from reinstatement.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Newcastle enjoys a splendid vista and the benefit of a committed 8-person Tidy Towns Group. Try to secure the involvement of the Community at large and in particular concentrate on the eradication of litter. Select one or two projects per year and concentrate on them. All associated with this entry are congratulated for their efforts which represent a splendid start in the competition.