

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 25-07-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	22
The Built Environment	40	21	12
Landscaping	40	20	18
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	19
Litter Control	40	25	24
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	15	15
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	19
General Impression	10	5	4
TOTAL MARK	300	160	145

Newbliss, County Monaghan

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for the Development Plan. It is a concise plan with attainable objectives, and will certainly focus your work in the next few years. Next year the committee might include a map of the village, and complete all the areas in the questionnaire, as this helps the adjudicator get a more complete picture of the work of the committee throughout the year. Your association with local authorities, is showing effect. Continue to develop your relationship with community organisations, schools, and state bodies, that could help you with advice, ideas, fund-raising, and hands-on help.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The appearance of the whole village has been enhanced by the recent developments on the main street. Many of the commercial and private premises in the village, were well maintained and presented. On the upper side of the village, the Church and grounds, the Orange Hall with its lovely stone wall and Masonic Hall were all well presented, although the derelict Phone Box and untidy open space here detracts somewhat from the area. In the centre of the village, the newly reclaimed area, even prior to its development, looked very well. The Market House also looked very well, but the broken glass pane remains. The School looked tidy but the playing field entrance needs to be tidied up. The Petrol Filling Station, and H. Mc Glynn both looked very well, and the Stag Inn was particularly well presented, with attractive floral features. Darragh Boats looks well, although the rear yard looks a little untidy, a screening fence would solve this. The adjudicator also noted a very clean and smart farmyard opposite the boat yard. The Church of Ireland and grounds also looked well. The Waste Water Treatment Plant had a very smart wall and entrance area, with a lovely shrub bed.

LANDSCAPING

The landscaping and presentation of the village was most attractive and is an excellent advertisement for the hard work of all concerned. The landscape features throughout village were both attractive and well maintained, with a good mix of colour and content to last the whole year round, particular mention here to the beds at the signpost. Colourful tubs and hanging baskets, and well presented street furniture also enhance the village area. The Cart and pumps at the lower end of the village were well maintained and presented. The new footpaths and lights enhance the streetscape. There is an old lamp post at the Dublin sign that could be painted. There are still further opportunities for other landscape features throughout the village, but well done for the work to date.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

This is a new category in the competition. There are many opportunities for enhancing and conserving wildlife habitats and the environment within the village. Open spaces, meadow and grass areas, ponds and hedgerows offer additional opportunities. Perhaps a wildflower meadow or nesting boxes in the school grounds could involve the children in the development of this important area. The stream and area around the Railway Bridge could also be another option. The committee has a role in maintaining the natural environment within the village. Work with a local wildlife expert and relevant local bodies to develop this area further.

LITTER CONTROL

There was very little litter evident on the day of adjudication. Bins and were well presented and maintained. It is important that bins are emptied regularly particularly around high traffic areas like the shop and chipper. The committee and general community must remain vigilant in this important area. Continue your education programme with the young people in the village. A good performance again this year.

TIDINESS

The completion of all the County Council work has greatly improved the overall impression of the village. The new landscaping features and well maintained premises also make their contribution to this impression. However, there are still some areas that seriously detract from the presentation of the village. The approach road opposite the Post Office has a very untidy area at the junction to the village, with untidy farm machinery and buildings. Also the derelict Phone Box and area beside it mentioned earlier. Dereliction is a challenge faced by many Tidy Towns Committees, and there are many ways to successfully tackle this issue. The adjudicator noted the work of the committee in tackling other areas of the village.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Many of the houses throughout the village were well presented, with attractive hedges, lawns and colourful flower features. Some of the houses in the housing development were nicely presented with lovely gardens and flowers, and highlighted other houses in this area that need some attention. The bungalows on the Clones Road need their paintwork refreshed, the adjudicator noted the repaired fence in this area.

ROADS STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Overall there has been improvement in the presentation of the approach roads, nicely faced hedges and neat verges were noted by the adjudicator. Some road surfaces on approach roads still need attention, particularly the Monaghan Road. Road surfaces, footpaths, and open spaces in this area all need attention. This

adjudicator acknowledges that this has been identified in your work programme. The Railway Bridge on this road could also be tidied to expose the stonework. The areas around Ballybay and Monaghan directional signs are possible locations for a landscape feature. Considering the good work that has been done to date on the main street, approach roads, back areas, yards, forecourts and open spaces should now be a priority, to complement, rather than detract from the village.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The development in the main street has greatly enhanced the overall appearance of the village. Your work programme is the first step in a commitment towards developing your village's full potential. This programme should be flexible to allow adjustments should priorities change or alternative opportunities present themselves. As stated in last year's report, a serious commitment on the part of the whole community, working in harmony with local bodies, is needed to sustain and develop the presentation of the village. Your work to date is a good advertisement for your hard work and enthusiasm. Well done and keep up the good work. We look forward to further progress next year.