

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **NEWCASTLE-LYONS**
County : **DUBLIN**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 09-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	29
The Built Environment	40	25	23
Landscaping	40	26	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	11	12
Litter Control	40	26	24
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	22
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	177	170

Newcastle-Lyons, Co. Dublin

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your application form this year - it's good to see your continuance in the competition. Again, we would recommend that you compile a 3-5 year plan to provide some kind of focus and goals for the community to work to. This has proved most effective in other towns and vast improvements have been noted as a result. Your ongoing co-operation and good working relationship with the local authority, primary schools, FÁS and Leader groups is to be commended and encouraged as it is only with their support that significant progress can be made. We wish you luck in your future dealings with the local authority in the treatment and enhancement of your village's unique and special historical features.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

We found the main street in Newcastle-Lyons to be well presented overall. McEvoy's thatched pub looked particularly attractive and well maintained with the colourful flower boxes contrasting nicely against the white walls. The Gondola was also very nicely presented from both the front and side. We would suggest however that some restoration or development is carried out on the derelict building opposite the Village Stores as it detracts from an otherwise very pleasant streetscape. The Stores themselves would also benefit from a little attention to bring them up to the high standard of the other buildings in the village. The church and Texaco garage looked well and we would like to commend the efforts made by Kavanagh Motor Works to improve the front of the site following on from our comments last year - the planted flowers out front looked very nice. The broken and rusty sign for Newcastle and Peamount as you enter the village gives a very bad first impression and should be removed or repaired, but the second, stone sign for Newcastle looked very nice. The bench, litter bin and flowers at the bus stop at the end of the town looked very well.

LANDSCAPING

The Church of Ireland grounds looked very well and the area opposite the Texaco Garage was nicely landscaped with attractive flowers on the day of adjudication. Again, we must urge the committee to encourage the development of the site beside Newcastle Truck Centre as it is very overgrown and neglected. Some landscaping is also needed at Val Ryan's Agri Centre and its immediate surrounding area to improve the overall appearance. St. Finian's GAA pitch looked very well maintained and the new landscaping carried out at the junction of Aylmer Road with main street is lovely.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

As suggested last year, it would be wonderful to see some kind of plan compiled to encourage the development of wildlife and natural amenities in your area.

LITTER CONTROL

We were impressed with the high standard of litter control in Newcastle-Lyons as there was very little rubbish to be seen on the day of adjudication. It is wonderful to see the progress made in this very important area of the competition. The initiative undertaken with FÁS has obviously proved to be quite a success. Watch out for incidental litter in the carpark of the Gondola and please ensure that the overall efforts you have made are continued on an ongoing basis.

TIDINESS

Newcastle-Lyons is generally a nice, tidy village and pleasant to visit. We did not spot any recycling facilities on the day of adjudication and we would encourage this initiative in the future if it has not already been introduced. These facilities should be easily accessible and signposted. Some kerb management is required along Lyons Road, in the Gondola carpark and at the top of Aylmer Road. Some graffiti was also noted on Aylmer Road. Your encouragement of local community awareness and consciousness in this area is certainly the way to improve this area forward.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Most of the houses along the main street in Newcastle-Lyons looked extremely well, with nicely landscaped, attractive gardens. Houses along the approach roads were also nicely maintained and litter control and kerb management was good.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads into the village generally looked very well although attention needs to be given to one of the signs there, as mentioned earlier. Some hogweed was noted on the approach road to the village from Aylmer Road which should be removed and attention needs to be given to the foliage at the top of Aylmer Road as it is concealing the signage located there. We did notice the nice signs to Grand Canal and Hazelhatch Station and also the attractive visitor facility sign on the way down to Peamount Hospital. The new trees also looked very well along this road.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Well done to the committee on the obvious improvements made in the village this year and please ensure that these efforts are continued. Please make note of the suggestions and comments made here and we look forward to seeing developments made in these specific areas.