

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **NEWBRIDGE-KILDARE**
County : **KILDARE**
Category : **F**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 11-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	32
The Built Environment	40	28	27
Landscaping	40	28	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	18
Litter Control	40	23	22
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	23	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	30
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	210	196

Newbridge, County Kildare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you very much for the well presented entry form and thorough five year plan progress and report update. This really is an exceptional document and very clearly laid out. It is clear that having a clear plan of future commitment does see results and Newbridge is definitely a recipient of the efforts of the Tidy Towns Association. All must be complimented on the efforts and presentation of the report.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

There is a lot of change happening within Newbridge at present in all areas. The main street has seen some extensive new projects being completed and it is doubtful any town in Ireland can boast the size of the new universal super loo that is seen on the main street in Newbridge. The main street has always been a very important social space for Newbridge and perhaps better street furniture facilities could be provided for the whole length from the bridge over the Liffey to the junction at Dunnes Stores. The back areas of the Industrial Estate are still very disappointing and perhaps beyond the scope of the Tidy Towns Committee even though some premises present a very good setting such as Newbridge Cutlery. The main street is at last being contained and acquiring some buildings of significant scale and though their design is beyond the remit of the Tidy Town Committee their relationship to the public footways could provide more benefit for the people in the town. New works at the train station will no doubt provide a great improvement for commuters and at present it is good to see that they do not impact on Station Road. The roundabout at Wyeth Medica has at last been finished and looks very well both integrating with the Stud and acting as a good traffic calmer on entering into the schools area. Perhaps the front forecourt to the Church should be integrated with the streetscape and may allow for a safer environment for dropping school children off at the schools area if considered. The side streets to the main street area still need extra polish to their presentation and perhaps strong colour schemes would provide these small scale streets with a strong theme.

LANDSCAPING

Street trees along the main street are still varied in condition and there is a great need to establish a strong treed alley running for the length of the main street from the bridge to the hotel near the roundabout at the other end. The entry to Moorfield Park into the Industrial Estate is really very well presented, the grass very well cut and clean and the colour of the plants very welcoming. This again is so for the

mature standard trees opposite Dunnes Stores and the additional new street trees planted at this corner. Riverside Park is extremely comfortable to use and the disabled car parking is effective. Perhaps the strongest element in this years entry is the approach the Tidy Towns Committee is taking in developing a programme of events and seeing them implemented. It is hoped that current efforts will focus more so on structural planting for long term benefit than intensively managed coloured areas of flowers.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The viewing platforms over the river Liffey are very well displayed as are the information plaques. The report goes into extensive identifications of wildlife and natural amenities within the Newbridge area, however, most important is how works such as St. Conleth's and Mary's Infants School are being carried out and received by the children. One concern might be the amount of trees that are being planted in the residential areas and significant number of foreign species that have no relationship to the feeding habits of native birds. In addition there is perhaps greater need to re-introduce hedges in large areas of shrubs to provide habitats for different types of animals.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control is varied, however, given the extensive number of source points it really is quite well carried and thorough. The public areas are heavily used and as such need constant monitoring. The main street suffers poorly from a lack of attitude and perhaps a greater number of litter bins might improve this matter. Most amenity areas and all residential areas were all litter free and essentially the focus of litter control is in the very well used areas.

TIDINESS

This category is varied partly because of the poor presentation of the Industrial Areas, the rather untidy appearance of side roads and roads running parallel with the main street and the mixed treatment along the length of the main street. However there are significant improvements being made each year with the town and no doubt a master plan is directing a much more unified environment. One of the aspects that does impact on the main street is the control of car parking and high level of opportunistic car parking on corners and in places that threaten the safety of pedestrians. This must be controlled.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

This is a very important category in Newbridge and presents some of the greatest results in recent years. The Great Southern Estate has a very good entry area with

extensive plantings and significant number of street trees. Perhaps more native species might be better suited and less use of Cherry trees that would provide future problems with the pavements. Station Road is very well presented with the extensive areas of grass very well mown and kept very clean and provide one of the large public spaces that is not hampered by traffic. Langton Park, The Village and Moore all have good street trees but pavements need improvements. The Oaks is very full of trees and it is good to see that the original roadside hedge has been kept. Strand House lawn has very well tended grassed areas as does Moorefield Drive. College Park has good maintenance for the public spaces and it is noted that the grass around the boulders is very well maintained.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Hotel Keadeen presents an excellent entry sequence into the town from the Curragh, however, the general road environment deteriorates after this area given the extensive petrol stations and car parking facilities that compromise clear definition of entry areas. The roundabout by Wyeths is a successful entry sequence, however, the back roads around the industrial area and the side roads need a creative approach to address their overall worn out character. It is good to see works being done to the bridge and perhaps the most important area of all at present is the need to provide a safe area for the let down of children and collection in the schools area. It is noted that there is another turnabout area needed near the bridge to facilitate the safe delivery of children in vehicles and perhaps discussions with the Church might allow the forecourt to be used and thus integrate the Church more fully with this particular street environment.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Newbridge is putting forward a very strong commitment to the competition both through the development plan and the tasks undertaken in recent years. The committee must be complimented on the efforts as it is evident that a strategy is being followed and that the overall environmental improvements to the town being carried out by the residents is for all to share.