

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **NEWCASTLEWEST**
County : **LIMERICK**
Category : **D**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 23-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	32
The Built Environment	40	27	27
Landscaping	40	33	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	19
Litter Control	40	23	23
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	209	205

Newcastlewest, County Limerick

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you very much for the completed questionnaire with copy of the Arra Community Project and informative street map. The Arra Community Scheme is the result of excellent interaction between the various groupings within the town. It is good to see that the Tidy Towns Committee has played a key role in this overall town development approach. The practical co-operation between the Committee, County Council and FAS has benefited the town and its environs judging by the improvements that have occurred over the last number of years. It is also good to see the business community rowing in by providing some much needed commercial sponsorship

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

There seems to be a concerted effort on the part of both home and commercial property owners to ensure that the town as whole is shown off to good effect. Many properties were undergoing refurbishment on adjudication day. Like most towns of its size Newcastlewest has a problem with dereliction; for instance a number of run down houses on Maiden Street are not in keeping with the rest of the street. The Committee is aware of this problem but will need to offer encouragement to the owners of these properties to make an effort to redress the situation. Both the "Crock of Gold" and "J O'Sullivan's Pub" on South Quay (Killarney Rd) were noted for the traditional look to their shopfronts. "B&L Footwear", "Cowpers Jewellers", "Parkers Pharmacy" (in the process of traditional sign writing), "O'Connors Groceir Gineralta", "Marguirites Coffee Shop" and "Dr Fullams Surgery" all had excellent frontages.

LANDSCAPING

The landscaping development at the junction of the Limerick/Dromcollogher Road, part of the ongoing FAS supported Arra Riverside Amenity project, was very impressive. The Grotto on the Athea Road deserves special mention for the manner in which both the stonewalls and the landscaped area have been maintained. It is good to see that new walks are being developed in and around the Demesne which is synonymous with Newcastlewest. Commercial sponsorship from some of the town's major industries would be very helpful to develop more new initiatives in this category.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The steps being taken to accommodate a wildlife environment

in and around various areas of the town are very welcome. Newcastlewest has such an abundance of potential natural habitats compared to other towns of similar size so it is important that they should be identified and developed. "Cullinagh Bridge" for instance could be a focal point as one enters from Killarney. The cleaning of the river and the construction of weirs to encourage fish life is an integral part of the overall community plan.

LITTER CONTROL

It is important that the committee work in tandem with the town's community council to implement the Limerick County Council Litter Awareness Programme. The litter control was quite good on adjudication day except for some wrappers and plastic bottles in the vicinity of Maiden Street.

TIDINESS

There are a few areas of the town that need immediate attention under this category. The committee is aware that some problems exist and are taking steps to address and rectify the situation. It is important that all the good work in other categories is not undermined by a little untidiness

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

It is good to see co-operation between individual residents associations and the committee. The standard of presentation in this category was very good, for instance the terrace of houses that constitute Connolly Avenue were in excellent condition. It is pity that the name sign of the above has been painted over; it should be restored to its original self. There were a number of new housing developments taking place and no doubt when completed will enhance the town.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Killarney road with its impressive houses complemented by silver birch and copper beech trees is very inviting and creates a good impression. The Athea Road, which also has some established very well kept houses, presents a very good image. It is a pity that the old pump has not been restored as it would be a nice feature. Some back areas were a little untidy and while there was some nice new street furniture to be seen, some of the older vintage was a little run down. Overall this category was quite good.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The town has developed dramatically over the last number of years. There is a great co-operative effort amongst the relevant associations and individual residents. The town has benefited immensely from this effort. Keep up the good work.