

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **NEWTOWNFORBES**
County : **LONGFORD**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 15-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	23
The Built Environment	40	23	22
Landscaping	40	26	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	10	10
Litter Control	40	19	18
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	19	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	24
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	168	161

Newtownforbes, County Longford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your plan which gives a great deal of information on proposed future developments in the village. The only comment that the judges would suggest is that derelict buildings should be plainly painted rather than painted with murals as this tends to highlight them and it is easier to maintain. i.e. a fresh coat of paint each year rather than different murals. The village has to contend with a lot of traffic but despite this was reasonably tidy on the day of adjudication – well done.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Premises throughout the village have made good effort in their presentation. Of note, Caseys, The Village Teashop, McGrath Meats and the Castle Inn. Bells had some fine hanging baskets as well. The Montessori School looked very well – well done. The Church was well presented and the carpark was neat and tidy. Castleforbes and its kitchen garden are a huge attraction and amenity to have in the village. The entrance gates are well presented. The gate to the graveyard on the Ballinalee road was freshly painted as was the seating around the village. The school looks well with nice boxes. Concurring with the report, Clonguish GAA grounds would benefit considerably from some landscaping i.e. tree planting and wall creepers.

LANDSCAPING

Incidental planting throughout the village looks well though a more co-ordinated approach is required. On the main street, planting around the base of trees is to be discouraged, however it is suggested in the report that grilles and guards be utilised instead. The areas on both the Sligo and Longford road look well and are welcoming – well done to those involved.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Areas of wildlife still need to be identified and a process of awareness incorporated into your planning. The logo of the squirrel will look well and its an animal that has a nice association. Its choice is presumably because grey squirrels were introduced at Castleforbes and the population that is now so prevalent in Ireland stems from them.

LITTER CONTROL

The village had only a few pieces of litter – well done, as this is difficult to achieve with the passing traffic. It is good to hear

about the organisation of a litter campaign. Some litterbins need cleaning e.g. near Castle gardens and perhaps a few more bins could be installed at the Longford end of the village.

TIDINESS

The overall appearance of the village was tidy. Co-ordination of planting and the cleaning of bins would increase tidiness in future.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The residences in the village were generally well presented with some in the main street making great effort. Castlepark is well presented and work was being carried out at the base of the wall at the entrance. Castlegardens is reasonable with some litter and vandalism of new trees. Lios Breac looked exceptional and the landscaping is maturing well. The plants do need to be cut from in front of the plaque at the entrance or it will be lost in vegetation. Houses on the main street look well and some feature traditional architecture i.e. the white cottage opposite Mace convenience store. There are some fine homes in Cherryline and Meadowcourt and mature planting looks very well here.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Sligo and Dublin road approaches were good and well cut back. The black and white barriers in the town were freshly painted. The Ballinalee road was fine – well done to those concerned.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Newtonforbes is a pleasant village. The proposed by-pass will effect the village positively, however it now has the opportunity to develop itself into an attractive place so that motorists will make a detour and stop i.e. to the Village Teashop. The planned developments look interesting – good luck with your work..