

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 02-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	26
The Built Environment	40	24	21
Landscaping	40	24	20
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	24	25
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	16	15
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	21
General Impression	10	6	5
TOTAL MARK	300	173	160

Newbliss, County Monaghan

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for the Village Enhancement Plan 1999-2001, you have clearly identified needs to be addressed in the Village all of which is attainable. Next year the committee should include a map of the village highlighting relevant areas, and complete all the sections in the questionnaire, as this helps the adjudicator get a more complete picture of the committee's progress since the previous adjudication. Your fund raising ventures and community involvement, along with your continued co-operation with the County Council, other interested bodies was again noted, and the benefits of these partnerships will continue to enhance and enrich the village and its community. Your results to date are a good advertisement for the hard work of the Tidy Towns Committee and the community.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Newbliss has many features within the village that contribute to its overall appearance. Once again many of the public, business and residential properties in the village were attractively presented and maintained, with attractive floral features. The Church of Ireland and grounds make an attractive focal point on this approach to the village. The wall on the fine old gate lodge needs its paint refreshed. Darragh Boats looked well again, and when the screening hedges fills out a bit, it will hid the untidy rear yard. The Newbliss Eggs packing sheds opposite caught the eye again with their very tidy presentation. The Petrol Filling Station, green galvanised shed, County Council Offices, all had a tidy smart presentation, The Acorn Centre with its lovely baskets is a nice facility to have in the village, and H. Mc Ginn, a very fine building, once again caught the eye and the Stag Inn was particularly well presented, with attractive floral features. All the buildings in the centre of the village contribute to the streetscape and many deserve special attention. There are three large focal buildings in the centre of the village, all with varying degrees of presentation. The Market House, reflecting the agricultural heritage of the area, looked very well and it was good to finally see the broken glass pane replaced. The new pub frontage at Thompson's will look well when completed, and its unusual diamond painting scheme on this large building needs its paint work refreshed. The large Georgian Building housing Martinsworth VG Food Market, needs to replace its plastic signage with something more sympathetic to the fabric of the building. The shop goods on the footpath also need to be removed, both to improve the presentation of the premises and to facilitate access for people with disabilities. The attractive tubs were noted outside the fine front door of this building. The Presbyterian Church and

grounds also looked well, but the rubble in the Car Park needs to be removed. The new shop, Masonic Hall, and Orange Hall with its lovely stone wall also looked well, and it is good to see the previously unsightly derelict Phone Box replaced on this side of the street. The Post Office looked tidy and some simple flower feature would further enhance this building. A lovely wall, entrance area and shrub bed was noted at the Water Treatment Plant again this year. The Playing pitch, Club House and its attractive new gates looked well, and repairs to the fence here continues. The School also looked very tidy, but deserves some landscape or flower features to enhance its overall appearance.

LANDSCAPING

Once again, some nice landscaping features, attractive window boxes, tubs, and hanging baskets were evident, providing a lovely splash of colour to the whole streetscape. A tub in front of Thompson's was broken and needs to be removed. The new benches and Picnic Tables throughout the village look really well. The Victorian ventilation pipe at the Monaghan road junction, could be painted and the flower bed, the gate area and stonework looked well beside it, but remove the old rusty barrel dumped behind the wall here. There is still an opportunity for some simple appropriate planting at the Ballybay and Monaghan road signs on the approach roads to the village. The log planters on the Cootehill road are unusual and look well. The pumps and cart also looked tidy and attractive on the corner, maybe a standard colour/livery scheme for your street furnishings, and ventilation poles might be considered at this stage. Your careful choice and mix of trees to include native trees is praiseworthy as is your mixture of seasonal planting and perennial shrubs and plants that provide a good mix of colour and content to last the whole year round.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The Tidy Towns Committee have an important role in preserving and suitably enhancing the natural environment within their community. It is good to note that you have plans for a suitable development within this category at the bridge next year. There are also other opportunities for enhancing and conserving wildlife habitats within the village. Wild flower meadows/grass areas, nesting boxes, pond/water features, trees and hedgerows offer additional opportunities. The local children and their school and grounds are an option for developing some of these opportunities. When choosing appropriate signs for projects ensure they enhance rather than detract from the environment you are promoting and preserving. Work in conjunction with relevant local bodies, ENFO, or a local wildlife expert to develop this area.

LITTER CONTROL

There was some litter evident on the day of adjudication, outside the VG store, on the derelict site, on the road into the school, and in the housing development on the right on the way to Clones. Your bins looked well, and your Litter Awareness Project in the schools is praiseworthy, but the committee and community must remain vigilant in this very important area at all times.

TIDINESS

The overall impression of the town was one of general tidiness. However there are some premises and areas that detract from the overall impression. Whilst acknowledging that some work has been done in this area, the farm buildings on the Scotshouse road junction still present an untidy first impression of the village. The previously admired reclaimed site in the centre of the village, remains undeveloped and is now attracting litter and weeds and looks untidy. Similarly back yard buildings observed from this location, need to be tided or screened. It is important that all areas of the village are appropriately maintained and kept tidy and litter/weed free, including forecourts, back yards, kerb edges, all open spaces, and areas between properties. Back alleys/yards, should be appropriately screened particularly in areas that will attract rubbish or dumping.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The majority of houses throughout the town and on the approach roads, were generally well presented. The attractive hedges, lawns and colourful flowers in some individual gardens were noted, as were some attractive tubs and window boxes, and hanging baskets. This splash of colour is very welcoming, well done for the hard work to those responsible. However the nicely maintained homes highlight those that need attention or require their paint work refreshed both in the town, housing developments and on the approach roads. A house gable opposite the boat factory needs its paint refreshed, and perhaps some additional flower features to join the one house in this area that has hanging baskets, would brighten this side of the street. The housing development on the right out the Clones road, has some new benches and the cottages look well with their fresh paint work. The open grass area needs to be cut and tided in the immediate area in front of the furthest houses in this development. The householders who maintain the roadside area in front of their homes also deserve praise for their efforts.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads are the first impression of any town and require particular attention for this reason. Attractive

signage, nicely faced hedges and tidy verges that do not compromise the flora and fauna were noted on some of the approach roads. Whilst the hedges and verges looked well, the Monaghan Road still needs attention and detracts from this area of the village, road surfaces, footpaths, and open spaces all need attention. Your proposed enhancement plans for this area will solve this problem. It was good to see Telecom ducting the remaining telephone lines on the day of adjudication. The new fence on the Clones Road will look well on completion, but the hedges and verges on the road into the playing pitch need attention. The Railway Bridge and stone walls on this road could also be tidied to expose the stonework, along with the new fence this would be a very nice area for a walk. The little flower bed at the village sign was noted on the Monaghan road. The areas around both the large Monaghan, and Ballybay signs on the approach roads, remain possible locations for a landscape feature giving an attractive final impression as you leave the village. The Scotshouse approach road also needs attention, with a patchy road surface, untidy verges path edges and farm buildings creating a contradictory first impression of the village. It is obvious that you are doing some work in this area, with some tidy stone walls and a breeze block wall noted. but it needs the same level of maintenance as the other approach roads.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The adjudicator was once again impressed with the ongoing developments in Newbliss Village. You have acknowledged last years comments, and the enthusiasm and commitment of the Tidy Towns Committee and community is obvious in your progress. This is the basic fabric of future success, on which the community in co-operation with relevant local bodies must sustain and develop all the aspects of the village environment. Well done and keep up the good work .