

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 07-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	29
The Built Environment	40	26	25
Landscaping	40	27	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	11	11
Litter Control	40	26	26
Tidiness	20	14	13
Residential Areas	30	19	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	23
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	183	177

Newcastle-Lyons, Co. Dublin

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Once again it is nice to see you participating in the Tidy Towns Competition. Your continuing improvements are most welcome and we look forward to seeing your 3-5 year plan for the area, as part of the overall Area Action Plan, which will serve to concentrate and prioritise your efforts in the future. It is important to involve the whole community in your plans and get support from local businesses, residents and schools in order to bring about any real and worthwhile changes. Support from all areas will make your task so much easier. We would be grateful if you could submit a more detailed map next year with street names marked as this makes the adjudication much easier.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

There is a wonderful blend of the past and present evident in Newcastle-Lyons in the streetscape and the buildings. Efforts have clearly been made and continue to be made to ensure that one's impression of the village is a pleasing one. The Texaco Garage and post office as you enter the village from the Rathcoole end looked very well with the attractive landscaping and well presented exterior. Both the Gondola and McEvoy's licensed premises are bright, interesting and welcoming buildings and St. Finian's Hall and the lovely stone house opposite fit in beautifully with the village scene. The Village Stores looked a little drab in comparison to surrounding buildings in the village but it is tidy and relatively well kept. It is also wonderful to see such heritage evident in the village with the ruins of what looks like a castle on the left side from Rathcoole and also The Old Glebe whose sign indicates clearly its importance as a listed architectural and historical property in the village. It is important that places such as these are incorporated into your Area Action Plan and are given the attention and significance they deserve. There are good directional signs in Newcastle-Lyons, however, street name signs seem to be somewhat lacking as we found it difficult at times to identify the street which we were on. The metal sign indicating the entrance to Newcastle from the Naas end is bent and rusty and should be replaced or removed as the stone, bilingual sign looks infinitely better. The corrugated iron fence of the truck depot on the main street also is rather unsightly. The benches on the main street looked well and the traffic calming measures introduced in the village are important as it was clear that a large amount of vehicles pass through the area daily.

LANDSCAPING

The landscaping carried out on the grassy area outside the

Church of Ireland looked very well, it would be nice to see it developed further with the addition of some colourful plants and flowers. The hedgerows and bushes as you enter the village are well maintained and the new trees that have been planted in the village are wonderful and will enhance the main streetscape further in years to come. The trees, shrubs and flowers at the Texaco Garage looked wonderful and the flower planting at the road to the right after the garage is also very attractive. It was a shame to see that the field in beside the Newcastle Truck Centre on the side road has not had any attention and that the weeds and grass are starting to push out onto the road itself. We hope that this problem will be rectified shortly. The grassy area behind the car park at Lett's Butchers and the Gondola pub would also benefit from some landscaping as is currently looks quite overgrown and neglected. The car park beside Kieran Brady & Associates would also benefit from some planting to take away from the plain drab look.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The stream is a lovely feature to have in the village and should be a natural encouragement for the development of wildlife here and the attention that you have given it to date is welcome. We would encourage you to develop some kind of definite plans for this section of the competition next year given that you are in an ideal location, in the heart of rural Dublin.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter seems to be under control in Newcastle-Lyons, despite the large amount of traffic that obviously passes through the village each day. Watch out for areas such as the car park beside Lett's Butchers and the side roads where some incidental litter was to be found. It was good to see that there are plenty of litter bins in the village with encouraging signs to clean up the environment and keep your village litter free.

TIDINESS

There was no evidence of graffiti present in Newcastle-Lyons on the day of the adjudication which was wonderful. Some kerb maintenance and attention to grassy verges is necessary on side roads and residential spots but, overall, the village is well kept and tidy. We would welcome the introduction of some dedicated re-cycling initiatives in the area, this is an important issue for the future.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The residential areas in Newcastle, though small in relation to other towns and villages, are very attractive. The houses on the main street looked wonderful, we especially noted

beautiful planting and landscaping and their use of bilingual signage. The houses on the road down to Casement Aerodrome also have lovely gardens and flowers – however, more attention is needed here for the kerbs further down the road where weeds were evident and some incidental litter could be seen.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads into Newcastle-Lyons have not been neglected and are generally in good condition. Ensure that hedgerows and bushes are maintained on all roads, some were better than others. The approach road from St. Finians GAA pitch had some incidental litter and there were a number of potholes and some litter on the road from Highdownhill which need attention. Signposting is very good on roads around the village but we would recommend, as mentioned earlier, having more visible actual street name signs as they were difficult to identify.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

It is lovely to see such a pretty, small and rural village existing today in Dublin and the local community and relevant bodies have done very well in maintaining the atmosphere and feel of the village. We look forward to seeing your Area Action Plan and 3-5 year Development Plan in the future which will be very necessary if you are to maintain standards and initiate proper changes in the village.