

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **DROICHEAD NUA**
County : **KILDARE**
Category : **F**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 30-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	40
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	30	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	19
Litter Control	40	23	23
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	30
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	212	210

Newbridge, Co. Kildare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your completed entry form and all the relevant pieces of literature. You indicated that your development plan is being revised for various reasons however, you did not include this plan with your entry. It is advisable to submit the plan on an annual basis whether or not there are changes to it. Despite this, there was adequate information in the Newbridge entry form for this year's adjudication.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

There is a great diversity of buildings within the Newbridge urban business district. A number of premises in Newbridge are exceptionally well-presented including FAS, the Garda Station, St. Fiacra's Church, Sitric Jewellers and The Curragh Inn. Rose Earleys also looks very well. An Cistin Restaurant was nicely painted and had an impressive display of window boxes outside. In addition, Shades and Shapes also looks well and there were others.

LANDSCAPING

The Bord na Mona grounds are very well maintained with exceptional landscaping and a striking colour scheme of bedding plants. The shrubbery plants are also well maintained and will add variety and colour throughout the seasons. However, the car parking area to the extreme right as you go in the gateway is unsightly. The railings are badly in need of painting and upgrading of the wall is also required. There are also quite a number of weeds in this area. Wyeth Medica Grounds and environs are exceptionally well maintained and display a wide variety of plantings; the grass was well-cut and colourful bedding plants contrast well with the shrubby planting. Bedding plants in the grounds of the Dominican College at the roundabout are immaculate as are the grounds in general. Rose beds also looked well. Moore Park and Langton Park is generally well maintained, as are many other residential areas.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The infants' wildlife garden in St. Conleth's School is highly commendable. The river amenity in the grounds of the Dominican College is well maintained as a habitat. However, the brook adjacent to the gateway of the college is overgrown and is unattractive. The Riverside park on Athgarvan Road is exceptionally well maintained with a fine

display of bedding plants and outdoor furniture.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter appeared to be under control on the day of adjudication. However, public areas including the main street are heavily used and therefore constant vigilance is required here.

TIDINESS

The three bins sponsored by Penney's in front of their premises and the front of ESB building nearby need upgrading as they detract from the overall impression of the street. The open area with outdoor seating opposite Earley's was disappointing— most of the furniture needs a coat of paint and the area is also quite weedy giving the area an untidy look. In the main, residential areas in Newbridge are neat and tidy and enhanced the adjudicator's image of the town.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Pairc Muire has some very well maintained residences. However, there was some graffiti on the Pairc Muire sign (red brick) at the green area. Some weeds were evident along paths and kerbing around the base of the trees, which align the road. Henry Court is neat and tidy and in fitting with the character of the older houses on the opposite side of the street. Ballymany Park is a quiet residential area and is generally well maintained. However, the entrance into Ballymany Park is quite overgrown despite the good appearance of the inner part of the estate. The Maples apartments are quite a new development and are very well maintained with tasteful planting in its environs. The Priory is a new estate with a lot of landscaping work to be done. The boundary wall of the Priory requires painting and there are a lot of weeds in this area.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Grass margins on the Naas approach road are very well maintained and were being cut at two locations on the day of adjudication. Signage is also very good on this road and the hedgerows are neatly cut. The Kildare approach road is well maintained but some signage requires cleaning. The alleyway between McElwain Terrace and Myles Murphy Solicitor displayed graffiti on gateway and walls. This area also had a large number of weeds and a scattering of litter. Similarly, the alcove near Laura's Shop is an eyesore, it is quite unkempt, untidy and in need of renovation to some degree.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Newbridge is evolving at a significant rate and, as indicated, the Tidy Towns Committee are aware of this. More importantly, steps are being taken to deal with these changes. A variety of construction work is being carried out during adjudication at various locations and the adjudicators look forward to the completed products in the coming years.