

*"Caring for our environment"*

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

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 17-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	33
The Built Environment	40	27	27
Landscaping	40	34	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	20
Litter Control	40	22	23
Tidiness	20	13	14
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>209</b>

## **Newcastlewest, County Limerick**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for a most informative submission outlining work carried out and work on hand. The maps were extremely helpful and well illustrated. You have a very large area to cover and you are not helped by the consistent busy traffic through the town. You have benefited significantly from the various community schemes under FÁS in recent years and the tree planting of previous years is now bearing fruit in terms of environmental enhancement. The vast amount of grass cutting required in the Castle Demesne is way beyond the norm for a town the size of Newcastlewest. However, you have problems throughout the town with many commercial businesses not playing their part. As a committee you will need to seek full support from the community and from the commercial, sporting, and educational interests within the town.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

You have a busy building programme underway with a good deal of house building and commercial development in evidence. The building referred to last year looked well again this year, together with O'Connor's Newsagent, J. O'Riordan, and Marguerittes Care Shop. You have problems with some commercial buildings i.e. Deel Wholesale and its surrounds, the area opposite the Texaco Garage on the Cork approach, the area beside the Unisex Hair Sensations and the sign for the D.I.Y on the roof at Market Yard should be removed. There are numerous pockets of dereliction in many parts of the town and many rusty corrugated iron roofs presenting a poor image for the town.

### **LANDSCAPING**

This is one of your strong points and the vast amount of tree planting, flower bed development and grassed areas all combine to present a high degree of presentation. The Castle Demesne as mentioned previously is excellent and provides a most commendable amenity for locals and visitors. You have a serious weakness with signage in this respect. A stranger would not be aware of the extent of the public demesne or how far it is to the town. You need a signposting scheme that will simplify locating the various areas. The amount of oak trees planted in the demesne is praiseworthy and they are now maturing well. The flower display developments at many of the town's junctions present a welcoming image and should be pursued in other areas. Some commercial companies have embellished their premises with attractive window boxes and hanging baskets

i.e. Bank of Ireland and A.I.B. plus many others. The square was under development on both adjudication days and traffic here was chaotic. However, when complete the new layout will offer an excellent opportunity for improved landscaping and we look forward to it with interest. The Desmond Castle is a superb restorational project and worth a visit to view the oak ceiling alone. This is a most important building for the town to attract large visitor numbers, but it needs improved signage and access.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

You have raised your marks here because of the excellent riverside walk development. You can progress further by improving the interpretation of the local wildlife through illustrated display boards. Contact your local I.W.C. officer for advice.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

By far your greatest single problem, Monday adjudication found a profuse amount of litter in many parts of the town. The road up to the Castle Demesne and the hedgerows beyond the barriers had a regrettable amount of litter. Also, where many approach roads had been freshly cut the litter remained, so you need to try harder under this section.

## **TIDINESS**

The untidiness throughout the town related to many poorly kept small and not so small open areas needing a clean up. The area opposite the Texaco Station on the Cork approach is particularly bad and should be tackled for next year. Some signage has gone shabby i.e. the Fáilte sign on the Limerick approach and some directional signs within the town. Freshly painted posts and signs improve the appearance of the town.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

In general, the houses are well presented in Newcastlewest. Some boundary walls at Assumpta Park would benefit from painting. Chapel Close is well presented except for weed growth in the gutters. Bishop's Court is attractive in presentation and many have some excellent front gardens. Try and get a number of resident groups's set up and consider organising a local residential competition similar to Ennis in Co. Clare.

## **ROADS, STREETS, AND BACK AREAS**

The two principal approach roads, i.e. Limerick and Abbeyfeale are your best, and the Cork approach is fair. The Kilmallock approach is overgrown. Street furniture

could play an important part in raising your marks and you should pay extra attention to the existing town pumps etc. and plan for more in the newly developed square. Try and retain the rural ethos of this fine market town. Road surface has been improved especially in the streets leading off the Town Square. However, there are areas where the surface is below standard.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The developments continue and as they do, they will bring greater challenges for the community and various agencies. The County Council is very evident in the current developments, but their work will need to be matched by private and community effort also. The town has an air of progress about it, but you have problems with an inordinate amount of traffic throughout. Well done on a good performance.