

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 10-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	26
The Built Environment	40	24	23
Landscaping	40	30	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	10
Litter Control	40	17	19
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	20	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	25
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	177	168

Newtownforbes, County Longford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Newtownforbes is welcome to the first Tidy Towns Competition of the new millennium. Well done on your development plan, it is very ambitious and the adjudicators look forward to seeing it implemented over the next few years. It is good to note that your development plan takes into consideration the bypass construction and its implications for the village. The artist's impressions of the proposals contained in your plan are very helpful also. Development work appears to be in progress at the site of the old convent. Your application does not indicate the nature of the development, one hopes that it will be appropriate. It would be difficult to compensate for the loss of the wonderful architectural features of this fine old building to Newtownforbes. Well done on yet another good presentation.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Most buildings are well presented. You are, of course, aware of buildings which need to be upgraded and also signs which could be removed or replaced. It is such a pity that the beautiful Tudor style buildings are not maintained well painted. The proposed development as outlined in your development plan for the main street are imaginative, we look forward to their implementation, particularly the ducting of service cables and the provision of attractive standards, these together with resurfacing of pedestrian areas should take Newtownforbes to a new level in the competition.

LANDSCAPING

It is good to note young trees maturing and newly planted replacement trees, well done. A green area located across the road from the old convent would be ideal as a small community park, is this a possibility? Perhaps the boundary walls of the Clonguish GFC grounds could be planted with a climbing plant to 'soften' their visual impact. Flower displays were colourful during adjudication, however the permanent shrub displays in both residential areas together with tree planting and maturing stands of trees are much more valuable as they provide a legacy for future generations. The hedgerow on the Ballinalee road just before the nameplate needs to be reinstated in sections.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Your nature walk sound idyllic, has there been a survey of wildlife, flora and fauna? If so, perhaps then the next step would be to identify threats to wildlife and appropriate conservation measures. The nature walk might also be sign

posted with 'comfort markers' and brought to 'Slí na Sláinte' standards, it should also be sign posted from the main street. Other walks around the area might also be developed. The graveyard on the Ballinalee road is being admirably maintained.

LITTER CONTROL

Congratulations on the new litter bins, however some of the older ones need to be refurbished, or cleaned at least. Unfortunately there was a light scattering of litter throughout the village during adjudication and quite a serious outbreak at the top of the Sligo approach road just before the convent. Most of the litter involved were crisp packets, bottles, sweet wrappers and so on and most looked fairly recent. Another serious litter black spot was the stretch of verge just outside the village centre beyond the nursing home.

TIDINESS

The village had an overall appearance of tidiness during adjudication. The problem with the undeveloped site marking the entrance from the Longford road is unfortunate. We wish you well in finding a solution to this problem. Try to keep building materials out of public sight and make sure that all are removed when construction work has finished. An old mound of gravel was noted at the roadside concrete block wall of the Clonguish GFC grounds.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Castle Gardens continues to be well presented in many respects, however weed growth along kerbs should be eliminated altogether. Some tree planting behind the dividing wall and the school would be appropriate to soften the adverse visual impact of the rear façade of the school building. Some weather stained walls could be either planted or cleaned or painted. Lios Breac Close looks quite magnificent in all respects, congratulations, a minor green area here needs to be replanted. The housing estate across from the nursing home was nicely presented also, however a number of serious potholes need to be filled in rather soon.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The entrance to the village from the Sligo road is spoiled somewhat by the undeveloped site located just before the nameplate. Upon appropriate development, this together with the other handsome features of the village, will enhance Newtownforbes significantly. It is good to note the excellent hedgerow lining most stretches of approach roads. There are many stretches of valuable stone wall within the immediate hinterland of the village which could be restored, particularly dry stone walls. Apart from the previously noted older litter bins, items of street furniture are generally well presented and

the pump on the main street was much admired. One or two road signs could be refurbished. Some old gates with good ironmongery work could be refurbished and highlighted as an attractive feature of Newtownforbes.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The overall impression of Newtownforbes is one of tidiness and 'greening' which is very pleasant. Welcome developments would be perhaps a little more emphasis on the wildlife associated with the village and in particular the sign posting of the walk from the village centre. This would be extremely valuable for the travelling public as well as villagers.