

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 03-08-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	40
The Built Environment	40	30	28
Landscaping	40	32	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	20
Litter Control	40	24	23
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	29
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	220	212

Newbridge, Co. Kildare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Welcome to the 2001 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your comprehensive submission. It is good to note that you are working to the 1996 Town Improvement Plan and that a submission has been made to Kildare County Council Development Plan by the committee. The committee has a high level of awareness of the town's unique qualities, its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. We wish you well with the forthcoming Town Council status.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The new Riverbank County Library and Arts Centre is an enviable landmark building in the townscape of Newbridge. Congratulations! Shopfronts along the main thoroughfare complement the new development in their presentation. Some are being considered for the Best Shopfront Award. The Garda Station looks well and its roadside treatment is excellent. The pedestrian area by Brady Burns and Associates is a first step in easing the pressure of traffic congestion along the Main Street. The landscaped hard surfaced seated amenity area at the bottom of the Main Street is beautiful.

LANDSCAPING

Your tree planting programme is impressive. The grant of fifty percent of the cost of tree planting to residents is a valuable initiative which will bear fruit for future generations. Commercial premises along the relief road are well landscaped to their roadside areas. The new Riverside Amenity Park is a fine public development and it is good to note that it has disabled access. It is being considered for both the Landscaping Award and the Waterside Award. The climbing plant to the large gables of the Curragh Carpet Complex was admired. A good overall presentation.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The committee demonstrates a keen awareness of the wildlife and natural features of the environs of Newbridge and their national and international status. Those within walking distance from the town should be developed as walks to Slí na Sláinte standards from the town centre. The wildflower meadow initiative will offer a different and valuable amenity in the Liffeside Amenity Park.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was very good in Newbridge on adjudication day. Some minor outbreaks were noted at the entrance to the carpark just off Main Street and inside the 'Goods Inwards' gate at Penneys. New bins were noted but some old bins were still in evidence, e.g. outside of Brady Burns

and Assoc. Your participation in the National Spring Clean together with daily (afternoon) street cleaning services play their part in your high standard of litter control.

TIDINESS

The overall appearance of Newbridge is one of tidiness. Your litter control activities plays its part in this. Well done on the graft 'Litter Abatement Plan' submitted to Kildare County Council and on your proactive role with the local business community.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Infill residential development, i.e. 'Weston' and 'The Maples' sits well with their neighbours. The large expanse of well managed grass and landscaping at Moorefield Park was admired. New estates such as Barrettstown Lawns, Roseberry Court and others are nicely finished. Some stretches of railings to the houses out the road to the Golf Club should be refurbished. The annual competition for residential areas is an excellent initiative.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Approach roads are nicely presented especially in terms of nameplates and road signs. Street furniture looks well also, particularly the telephones and toilets on the Main Street. Footpaths are being well maintained, we look forward to the refurbishment of the Liffey Bridge walls. Car parking is orderly along the Main Street. The wirescape is not too visually obtrusive as it runs parallel to buildings rather than criss-crossing the road at many points.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Newbridge is a very busy town, yet is presented to a high standard and amenity needs are catered for. Well done on a fine submission and presentation.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (03/08/01)

The riverside park is a very attractive amenity and provides great strolling grounds well beyond the bridge. This is particularly welcome as a relief from the very heavy traffic on the streets. The volume of traffic and parking permitted on both sides of the main street creates a very difficult atmosphere for pedestrians. The pedestrian only area is very welcome. The streetscape is well presented. The colourful floral displays at the roundabout, Wyeth Medica grounds, Newbridge Cutlery, the Fas Training Workshop and Bord na Mona are at their peak now. Some unwelcome litter was noted along the main street and particularly in Limerick Lane where weed grasses between the paving bricks defeat purpose of this development. Landscaping at the entrance to the Moorefield Estate is attractive and The Priory estate is especially good with the mature trees being a wonderful advantage.

