

*"Caring for our environment"*

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

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 08-07-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	30
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	27	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	11	11
Litter Control	40	27	26
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	20	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	24
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>183</b>

## **Newcastle – Lyons, Co. Dublin**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for your entry form. I am delighted to see that you have made steps towards developing a 3 – 5 year plan for your area, liaising with local developers on this and engaging a landscape designer are certainly steps in the right direction. Try to involve as much of the community and liaise with other local organisations and relevant statutory bodies in this regard. The development of this plan will serve to focus your efforts and will give the whole community goals to work for in the future. I wish you the best of luck with your efforts.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

There are some very nice old buildings in Newcastle – your unique heritage is very special and it should be conserved and promoted in the town as much as possible. An archaeological survey of the Newcastle area was no doubt a very worthwhile task. I noted that there is considerable speeding traffic through the village, even on a weekend, so the speed controls you have in place on the main street are very necessary. Mc Evoys Pub looked very welcoming, nicely painted and well maintained and the Gondola looked well, although the banners hung outside did detract from it. The benches around the village are a nice touch. The car park where Kieran Brady Auctioneers located is still in need of a facelift as it is quite drab and I noticed considerable weed growth around the Village Stores, their bin was also almost overflowing and an old broken window was evident at the side of the shop. The rusty corrugated iron fence of the haulage company opposite the Church of Ireland should also be replaced.

### **LANDSCAPING**

There is some nice landscaping evident in Newcastle but there is still potential for more development, a landscape architect in this regard would be very useful. The green areas throughout the village were well maintained and there were some lovely gardens in houses off the main street. The field on Peamount Road, down by the yellow and cream building, is still neglected and very overgrown and the grass area outside the Church of Ireland was nice but would benefit from some extra colour - the church notice board was empty of any information and dirty looking, this should be replaced or cleaned up. Some kind of landscaping at the Kieran Brady car park would improve that area and the corner opposite the church on the main street was a little neglected in comparison to surrounding areas.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Newcastle is situated in a lovely rural area of Dublin and so more attention given to the wildlife element of this competition would be welcome. Once again, we would encourage the

development of an environmental plan for the Newcastle area, especially in light of possible future rezoning developments.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

There was little litter to be seen along the main roads in Newcastle on the day of adjudication. Clean up days and plenty of litterbins obviously help in this regard so well done. Ensure that you are vigilant about side roads and back areas also as some litter was evident here and there, in areas such as car parks and open spaces.

### **TIDINESS**

More attention to kerb control on the approach roads into Newcastle is necessary, particularly heading into the town from Athgoe. There was litter and weeds around the green gates opposite Mc Evoys pub. However, it was great to see that your town has not been the victim of graffiti. The introduction of recycling facilities, properly signposted, would again be welcome in the future.

### **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

There are some fine residences around Newcastle and it is obvious that residents take pride in their houses and gardens. Again houses along the main street looked particularly attractive which added to presentation of the main streetscape.

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

In general, streets and back areas were in good condition. Be careful not to neglect the approach roads as these are the first impression that the visitor gets on entering Newcastle. Some kerb control is necessary here and there were a number of potholes on the approaches from Athgoe and Hazelhatch Station. Some additional signposting would also be beneficial and where there were Newcastle stone signs in place it was a shame to see them overgrown. Encourage the erection of some nice welcome signs for Newcastle as this tends to identify the area as a community, not simply a place you travel through to get from A to B.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Your efforts to retain Newcastle's unique rural heritage are truly commendable. Continue to involve the whole community in your plans and in any proposed developments and we look forward to reading your 3 – 5 year local area plan next year. Keep up the good work.