

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **NEWPORT-MAYO**  
County : **MAYO**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 15-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	32
The Built Environment	40	29	28
Landscaping	40	27	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	17
Litter Control	40	31	31
Tidiness	20	12	13
Residential Areas	30	17	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>194</b>

## **Newport, Co. Mayo**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for your comprehensive submission. The detailed colourful map was very well linked to the committee initiatives list and the photographs. Clearly you took on board the advice of last year's adjudicator by outlining areas targeted for development and highlighting completed projects. I would suggest that a year by year action plan be drawn up. Specific yearly time frames may help you focus on the various projects.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The five derelict houses (top of main street) are very visually enhanced by the creative art work and vibrant colour scheme. The one remaining roof on this building block however would need either re roofing or slate repair. The tourist office and bridges are the commanding features of the town and are of sound structure. The Waterfront apartments are tastefully finished - the stone work is in keeping with its natural surroundings. The school is well positioned back from the road and while the pebbledash plaster finish looks fine the paint work could do with being touched up; your proposed mural for the shelter should really brighten up the school yard. The school boundary fence is quite low (safety concern) and could do with being painted. The church is very well maintained and has a majestic presence on the Newport skyline. Newport craft and woolen mills has a rich looking gold/black façade. On the approach road from Mulranny some of the buildings look derelict and some of the occupied ones could do with being freshened up. Newport house continues to be a stately landmark.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Newport has a very luscious landscape with a lot of mature trees. The young trees and shrubs planted at the school really enhance the grounds. A lot of long grass margins were visible along the Quay, perhaps these areas which are considerable in size could be incorporated into picnic/parking areas. Your plan for wild flowers may also work well here. On the day of adjudication, there were shrubs along the old railway walk that needed cutting back also the grass was in need of cutting. The local playground is generally well kept however part of the boundary fence was broken; as this is beside the river, it is a safety concern (young kids). There was a noticeable lack of window boxes and hanging baskets in the town. I am not advocating that you introduce these in large quantities but a moderate display could help soften the appearance of the town. The flowerbeds near the fire station are very well presented as are those at the church.

### **WILDLIFE & NATURAL AMENITIES**

Newport is ideally located for attracting diverse species of animal and plant life with its mature woodlands and riverside setting. It has been noted that in conjunction with the national school, training is being encouraged in composting and waste management

that should help protect our wildlife. The old railway walk offers an opportunity to encounter animal and plant life at close range. It is always advisable to take a sensitive approach to our natural assets so as not to upset the natural balance, no doubt there are wildlife enthusiasts in your community who can offer advise in this regard. Cleaning and repairs at Kilbride graveyard were mentioned in your report, cemeteries are also natural habitats and should be handled as such.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

The town was found to be virtually litter free with the exception of a few minor offences. It is clear that there are litter control measures in operation an example of which being the bottle banks. There is an adequate number of litter bins and the fact that primary school children are being disciplined in re-cycling measures offer good prospects for the towns future.

## **TIDINESS**

The town has a neat appearance generally. The untidy signage referred to in last years report is unfortunately still to be seen. A signpost is leaning over, laden down with directional signs. A couple of businesses on main street display some merchandise outside which can lead to untidiness not to mention hampering the flow of pedestrian traffic. There appears to be a traffic flow problem at the top of main street which can detract from it having an orderly appearance. The town could do with more parking facilities that would help prevent disorganised and double parking.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Private dwellings and housing estates are well maintained and in keeping with the surroundings for the most part. It is sad to see so many derelict houses in the town itself but I notice a point of action in your 3-5 year plan is to address this problem, it will be interesting to see what initiatives will be taken. It will also be interesting to see what input the newly proposed residents associations will have in the future.

## **ROADS, STREETS & BACK AREAS**

Road surfaces overall are in average condition, footpaths are generally good on main street and appear wide enough for good accessibility. Some side street footpaths however are a potential hazard to pedestrians and would need to be repaired. Wheelchair accessibility to some establishments on the main street may be restricted as quite a few businesses have a step at their front entrance. The alleyway to the pottery shop (main street) has lovely brick paving perhaps the other alley ways could be developed in a similar fashion. Traffic calming measures on the road outside the school should be considered. The verges on the back road down from the 5 derelict houses need to be strimmed.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Newport is a very picturesque town with distinct character. The projects undertaken so far are a credit to you. From reading last years report, I thought there would be more of an update on the archaeological trail. The work isn't over but if you break your action plan down into manageable bite size pieces, set a time frame for each one and as far as possible stick to it, success will be yours.