

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **NEWBLISS**
County : **MONAGHAN**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 22-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	32
The Built Environment	40	24	24
Landscaping	40	25	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	15
Litter Control	40	23	24
Tidiness	20	12	13
Residential Areas	30	16	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	22
General Impression	10	5	6
TOTAL MARK	300	171	177

Newbliss, County Monaghan

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your completed entry form, map and supporting material, they were very helpful. Continue to foster your relations with local bodies as they have contributed so effectively to the presentation of the village in recent years, and you obviously have further objectives to be achieved.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Newbliss has some attractive buildings that reflect its past heritage and enhance the built environment. Both Churches looked well with tidy grounds. The GAA field & School were similarly tidy. The lovely tidy farmyard on the road to Cootehill caught the eye again for all the right reasons. The petrol station \ shop looked tidy as did the Masonic Hall and Stags Head. The Market House is a lovely feature building in the centre of the village. The Union Hall needs a little attention as does the fine focal building that houses Martins Shop re: its currant signage and presentation. It is important that the new estate is appropriately finished and the committee should liaise with the developers on this important issue.

LANDSCAPING

Many of the tubs need attention and the fine Cart and Pump features look neglected. They were an effective feature and are worthy of the attention. A lovely heather bed was noted at the old ventilation shaft. The beds at the corner of the Union Hall needed to be weeded and some of the pavement bricks need to be re-positioned. The new heather and lavender planters look well, it is good to see you are incorporating perennial planting for year round colour and content, in your new co-ordinated approach. While acknowledging your difficulty with vandalism to the young trees, some judicious and secure tree planting would further enhance your fine main street.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The committee has an important role in preserving and suitably enhancing the natural environment within the village. The school grounds could be considered as a simple introductory project in this important area of the competition. Wildflower meadows, nesting boxes, waters edges and the many mature trees and hedgerows around the village could all provide opportunities under this heading. Get appropriate help and advice from local experts and involve the school children in your plans.

LITTER CONTROL

There was some litter on the way to the school and on the main street. An ongoing litter awareness programme in the school should be considered. The bins in the green area

in the new estate were also spilling out on the grass. You have highlighted your current difficulties with litter and it is a challenge faced by many entrants. The committee and community must remain vigilant in this important area at all times. The village has plenty of well - maintained bins.

TIDINESS

The overall impression of the village was slightly unkempt and inconsistent with your work in recent years. There are weeds on roofs and in gutters. Flower features and tubs looked uncared for and some weed clearance is necessary on the main street.

The remaining exposed and untidy yards and outbuildings should be screened effectively with planting and screen gates, similar to that used at the back of Darragh Boats. Old rusty equipment and debris at buildings should be properly disposed off.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Many individual homes in the village and on the approach roads had lovely flower features, tidy hedges, walls and drives and these enhance the village, well done to those involved. However, some homes and their environs need attention. The new houses on the small side road past Darragh Boats are well finished.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The road surfaces, the smart lampposts and footpaths all looked well with some tidy hedges and verges noted on some of the approach roads. Hopefully the wooden rail fence will be repaired following its accident, and there are also some fine stone features on this road. The footpath out the Monaghan road needs attention, as does some signs on the approach to, and in, the town. The completion of the new housing may spearhead the improvements needed on the Monaghan road. Once again the large cleared site looked tidy, hopeful there are some plans to appropriately fill this gap in the main street.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Newbliss has many fine features and the committee has acknowledged these and are to be commended for their interest in the appropriate enhancement of their village. However, attention to detail, good housekeeping and a re-appraisal of the priorities in the village will put Newbliss back on the progressive trail it had starting blazing a number of years ago. Good luck with your future plans.