

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **NEWCASTLE-TIPPERARY STH**
County : **TIPPERARY SOUTH**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 19-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	36
The Built Environment	40	29	28
Landscaping	40	29	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	24	22
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	210	206

Newcastle, County Tipperary

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you indeed for all the information, photographs, map etc sent with your entry form which was most useful on adjudication day. Thank you for the plan which was most informative. It is suggested however that you might now revisit the plan and to set out on a year-to-year basis – say over the next three years – the work which your Committee can realistically carry out within their physical and financial resources. This type of approach has a number of benefits. It itemises what you propose to do, it creates a yard stick by which you can measure what you are achieving and it avoids your Committee trying to take on too much which sometimes can be frustrating when the proposed work is not achieved. The plan need not be elaborate or expensive and should be done in conjunction with your Local Authority, Fás, Coillte and the other agencies which you mention on your entry form. It is gratifying indeed to see that you have the continued support of all these public bodies and, of course your community. In the event a copy of the plan should be sent with next years entry form so that, again, the Adjudicator can have sight of it. You received an in-depth report from the Adjudicator last year. The following therefore is by way of comment on perceived further progress and should be read in tandem with that report.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Your Church (and its car park), School, Community Hall and Millennium Fountain all looked extremely well this year. The bridge is a major factor in the village and is being well maintained. Stone walls which are a feature of the village also looked well. However there is a need to repair the one near the bridge which looks somewhat unsightly. The centre of the village is a hive of activity and, within reason, is being well presented. The somewhat dilapidated petrol pumps at the Glanbia premises however do nothing for what is otherwise a well-kept area. While some refurbishment is required shops and other commercial premises within the village look well. The Church car park is, indeed, very nicely presented. The sites of picnic tables and seats, indicated on the map, were visited and are a very nice addition to the village's infrastructure. The Riverside Walk is a lovely feature and is also being very well maintained. The old Church and cemetery on the Clogheen Road now looks somewhat overgrown. The question could be asked that if some of the ivy was removed from the old Church would it look better. However there may be safety factor involved.

LANDSCAPING

Trees, shrubs and flowers planted in the past are now maturing nicely and create a very nice ambience in the village. The area around the Community Centre again looked well this year as did the planting in the Church car park. Further planting could be another matter which you should include in the next stage of your plan. In that event try to plant trees and shrubs which will give you some colour on an all-year-round basis. The flower

bed at the Fáilte sign was visited and looks well.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Your comments regarding the nature bed in the carpark were noted. Perhaps, and again as part of your future plan, the added addition of a feeding table, nesting box and bird bath would greatly enhance this facility or perhaps it is an item which school children could take on in their school grounds. In the event be advised by Duchas, or perhaps there is someone in your locality who has an interest and expertise in this subject.

LITTER CONTROL

Newcastle was practically litter free on adjudication day. This is a big improvement on last year and congratulations are due to all concerned.

TIDINESS

Bearing in mind the comments made above regarding commercial activity – nevertheless the village was presented in a neat and tidy manner and reflects greatly the interest which your residents have in their living environment.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The Liam Lynch Terrace houses again looked well this year and their open spaces are being very well maintained. Work on new housing was noted and, when completed, should be another fine addition to Newcastle. Individual houses, in the main, looked extremely well. Many had lovely gardens in full bloom on adjudication day which created a wonderful atmosphere. Well done to all concerned. In a small village this type of individual effort is absolutely vital if further progress is to be made in the Competition.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Road surfaces in the village are being well kept as indeed are paths. Approach roads were reasonably well presented bearing in mind the inclement weather. In this respect work in progress was noted on adjudication day. Bear in mind that adjudication normally takes place from either the speed limit signs or the village signs whichever you opt for and grass verges should be cut from there on in. In this connection do refer to the Tidy Towns Handbook which gives advice on the type of cutting which should be carried out in line with the preservation of wild flowers.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Newcastle is a lovely village and is being well maintained. Excellent work is being done by your Committee which is being reflected in the improved marking which you have received over the last number of years. Further marks will be gained through planning

and attention to detail and by continuing to maintain and improve on what has already been provided. The Adjudicator looks forward to returning to Newcastle again next year to see further progress.