

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **NEWTOWNMOUNTKENNEDY**  
County : **WICKLOW**  
Category : **C**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 18-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	--
The Built Environment	40	28	--
Landscaping	40	20	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	--
Litter Control	40	20	--
Tidiness	20	15	--
Residential Areas	30	16	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	19	--
General Impression	10	6	--
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>--</b>

## **Newtownmountkennedy, County** **Wicklow**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENT APPROACH**

Welcome to the tidy towns competition. Entering the competition is a very wise decision as it can now form a basis for future advancement. There is a requirement to produce an overall plan on a three to five year basis so that items can be identified that need improvement and then, in a systematic way, a year by year charting of plans and progress can be made. There is considerable disruption in the village at present due to major road works and the village is suffering as a result. This is temporary and no doubt when the work is completed, developments can proceed. The large committee of 15 members is a great asset and will help progress.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Focusing on the main street in year 1 is a good idea. The buildings can be assessed one by one and suggestions made for improvements. The derelict premises opposite the Town Hall public house provides an example of the sort of listing that could be made and the strategy to have such dealt with can then be drawn up. The church and schools are well maintained and the location of the schools is excellent for safety purposes. A number of business premises are very well cared for and these show up those that are needing a little attention. The post office and the adjoining premises always looks very well.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Efforts have been made with the construction of the new borders in the village and these will look well later in the summer. More permanent plantings of shrubs and trees are needed to give a permanency to the planting. There are good opportunities for tree planting and these would give a lovely aspect to the village in time. The roses at St. Brigid's school were looking lovely and the efforts of some shop keepers to enhance there shops with container plantings add a brightness to the village. There is very good opportunity for tree planting on the greens at Springfield park and also at Seasons estate.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Located in the heart of Wicklow the village offers a great opportunity for wild life observation. In any future plans inclusion under this heading would be most valuable. The riverside walk is a lovely feature. Sign posting and information provision in relation to this walkway would be welcome.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter control programmes are vital in all villages. There was a considerable amount of litter noted through the village and this will take persistent effort to remedy.

## **TIDINESS**

With the current work in progress it is understandable that difficulties are being encountered. Under this heading there are a number of aspects that could be looked at such as cleaning the road sign opposite the church. The lamp standard in Springfield park needs to be reset and the timber panel fence behind the new flower border needs renewing. Many varied items contribute to the tidiness aspect.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The two main estates were visited and it is clear that where individual gardens are well maintained there is a great benefit to the estate. Competitions and encouragement will help. There are many well tended houses and gardens and they add greatly to appearances. The open spaces, especially at Springfield, could benefit from greater attention to maintenance. Tree planting is always welcome and creates a very attractive atmosphere in an estate.

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

The entrances to the village are attractive with good natural side verges. As mentioned above, the disruption of current work is having its toll. The placing of cables under ground, as has been done in so many villages and towns, is needed here. The road surface at the turn from the village for Druid's Glen is in a bad state.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

This is a village with great potential as it is benefiting from the traffic reductions of being bypassed. With good planning and an enthusiastic committee much will be achieved in the coming years.