

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Newcestown Village**

Ref: **502**

County: **Cork West**

Mark: **230**

Category: **A**

Date: **06/08/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	30
The Built Environment	40	33	32
Landscaping	40	35	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	19
Litter Control	40	36	35
Tidiness	20	14	13
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	30
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	230	223

Overall Developmental Approach:

You seem to have a very active Tidy Towns Committee in Newsestown. In co-operation with the community, Cork County Council, FÁS and the school, much good work has been achieved. Well done to everyone involved!

Your 3-5 year Plan is a basic one but is a most useful document. However, it would be useful to break down your objectives by year.

The Built Environment:

Work on the footpath by the church has been noted and this is a great improvement, as is the work that has been done on stone walls. The church and grounds are well presented, as is the grotto around the corner. At the GAA grounds the new dressing rooms look well, but this building needs to be painted. The presentation of the rest of the GAA property was excellent. A fine road boundary wall was seen in the area of the Pitch & Putt Course. The two fields gates here should be painted if you can get permission to do so. The parish hall colour choice works really well, however, the hand railing needs to be painted, probably matt black. Like other public buildings, the school is neat and tidy and again a good colour choice has been used here.

Landscaping:

There is a lot of good landscaping in Newcestown. On the Castletownkenneigh road, the plants on the top of the stone wall look really well. This is enhanced by the colourful foxgloves coming up over the top of the wall from the back. The flower bed at the signs in the middle of the village help to take away the look of metal from here. Many flower tubs, baskets and window boxes have been used to create a great sense of colour. A colourful planted area was also noted on the Crookstown Road. Further along on this road, the landscaped area with the machinery looked most attractive.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The bird sanctuary area by the bridge is noted and this is an excellent development, as is the provision of bird feeders. Have you considered carrying out a simple local survey of the wildlife and flora to be found in your area? The results of this could be made available to the public through the use of large illustrated plaques that can be mounted in a few appropriate locations.

Litter Control:

On adjudication day, litter control was good and only incidental litter was noted. Your marks under this category are extremely high - well done!

Tidiness:

Some of the speed limit poles need to be painted. Your involvement in the Cork County Council litter competition will help to keep litter control at the top of everyone's agenda, as will the school litter competition. The boundary walls at the tennis court are in need of painting. First parts of the plaster finish will need some repair. Try and see if you can get permission to paint all field gates.

Residential Areas:

Most private properties are excellently presented and many have developed significant landscaping programmes. Some fine landscaping was noted on the Kilmurray Road. A few houses need to be painted for the first time and some gable ends also need attention.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Major work has been carried out on all approach roads including banks and verges. This is commendable. However, in most cases cut grass has not been raked and taken away. Banks and verges need regular attention if an even green finish is to be achieved. Most of your banks have been cut far too tightly and now have a less than attractive brown colour. The three recommendations therefore are (a) cut banks and verges on a regular basis, (2) rake grass immediately after cutting and take away all cut grass, and (3) do not cut banks too tightly - leave about 3"/4" of growth after each cutting.

General Impression:

Newcestown is a really attractive village with a great sense of community. Great work is being done by all involved and you are to be congratulated on the results that have been achieved to date.

Second Round Adjudication:

The grotto was as beautifully presented as ever, with very freshly painted statues! There are a large number of new houses in the village environs. Do ensure that new developments are in keeping with the character of the village. The square traditional-style nameplate sign was admired, as were the new pavements. The sign on the Crookstown side of the village was quite grubby. The landscaped space on this side of the village looked extremely well. Perhaps some new use could be found for the old petrol station? O'Mahony's Bar was very fresh. As mentioned by the First Adjudicator, the

boundary wall of the basketball courts was in very bad condition-sporting large cracks and rather flaky.