

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Droichead Nua**

Ref: **301**

County: **Kildare**

Mark: **226**

Category: **F**

Date: **07/07/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	41
The Built Environment	40	31	31
Landscaping	40	36	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	23
Litter Control	40	21	23
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	30
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	226	226

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for your submission and your detailed entry form. Your submission should have included a brief long-term plan. The plan will help you identify what can be done to improve the village over the next few years and the resources you will require.

The Newbridge Tidy Towns Association is strong has been extremely active during the year. The association has been cooperating with other community groups and with the local authority.

The Built Environment:

Newbridge is a busy town laid out in the form of a grid, at a crossing of the River Liffey. The town has a vibrant core, a busy commercial zone and extensive residential area. The Main Street and secondary street architecture consists of a combination of 19th and 20th century commercial and residential buildings, with lots of color and variety. This results in a mixed, but vibrant and attractive streetscape.

Landscaping:

The River Liffey provides the main natural landscape feature of the town and an excellent

landscaped river-edge park has been laid out along one bank. The proposal to open up the river view is a good one, which will visually link the river to the street-scape. The proposal to upgrade the riverside park, particularly the under bridge link, is also an excellent one. The tree planting along the Main Street was very attractive, and this was complemented by occasional flower boxes and hanging baskets. The tree planting initiatives undertaken generally by the Association are excellent. The landscaped garden on one side of the Roman Catholic Church was delightful. It is to be hoped that a similar landscaped arrangement will be completed on the town side. This will enhance the severe side elevation of the church that faces the town.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The river and its environs offer great potential in terms of wildlife and natural amenities. The establishment of a wildlife area is an excellent one.

Litter Control:

Litter control remains a significant problem in Newbridge. Significant areas of litter were noted on the approach road, all along the Main Street and to a lesser extent in the housing areas. The cemetery car park for example was particularly badly littered.

Tidiness:

The town, the commercial areas and the residential areas looked neat and tidy. In addition, the town projected an atmosphere of busyness and attractiveness. However the railway station looked untidy with neglected stone walling and weeds. This offered a very unattractive approach to the town.

Residential Areas:

There are over 70 residential areas around the town. The association has worked hard to maintain and improve these areas. As a result the residential areas generally look very attractive, with well-managed houses, well-presented gardens, inviting entrances, attractive open spaces and delightful landscaping elements.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads to the town are generally pleasant with footpaths, well-managed verges, trim hedging, mature trees and a variety of boundary walling. Some of the grass verges were neat and trimmed, while others have excessive growths of grass and weeds.

General Impression:

The Tidy Towns Association have been very busy around the town, particularly in regard to landscape maintenance, and great credit is due. One of the major problems facing Newbridge is litter management. This is a crucial task and one that the Association urgently need to focus attention on.

