

# Tidy Towns Competition 2003

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Newtowncashel**

Ref: **743**

County: **Longford**

Mark: **268**

Category: **A**

Date: **31/07/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	46	46
The Built Environment	40	34	34
Landscaping	40	37	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	27	27
Litter Control	40	36	36
Tidiness	20	18	18
Residential Areas	30	25	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	36	35
General Impression	10	9	9
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>265</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Many thanks for the information and the map which was most useful. Although this is a small village it is long, and, therefore, there is a great deal to maintain. It certainly is setting itself as a benchmark for many other small villages in Ireland - and with the superb quarry park, looked very well on a sunny summer morning. Many thanks for the pictures which give some idea of the thought and effort behind the quarry park. Although you have set out a number of points on paper, it is important that you formulate some plan for the next 1-5 years so that the committee and the community have a vision and goals to strive towards.

### The Built Environment:

The buildings in the village were generally presented to a high standard. It was good see that Bradys was for sale - it may have a new life in the future. The derelict house the other side of the road will, hopefully now be addressed. Smyths was well kept though the gate beside the foodstore could be freshly painted. The school looked well and the cotoneaster is doing well on the wall. The heritage centre was looking very picturesque. Casserlys looked wonderful, though it must be some job maintaining all of the tubs. Pairc Naomh Chiaran was well kept and litter free, though the wooden gate needed a scrub to get rid of the algae. Other small jobs included replacing the gates beside the garda station, gates and wall repair at the T junction and attention to the grey shed at the corner as this is in a prominent position. In a small village when a high standard has been achieved, the smallest detail stands out and needs attention as otherwise it detracts from completed

goals.

### **Landscaping:**

Newtowncashel has found a balance between enhancing the village with simple landscaping and allowing nature and the rural location of the village to be very much part of the village. The use of climbing plants was very effective. The simple presentation of the pump painted an olive green is an example of simplicity - well done. Attention to detail is required in some places, e.g. replacing of dead tree near school. Otherwise the landscaping in Newtowncashel presented a fine picture on the day of judging.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The quarry area was most pleasant. Many thanks for the pictures accompanying the application indicating the type of sculpture used and the meaning behind it. The use of bog oak to create the rock breaker links so well in with both the history of the village and the surrounding landscape. The cascade was not operating - hence the pond had quite an amount of algae. There were tadpoles evident. The pond will become quickly dead if expert advice is not sought in relation to either repairing the cascade or turning it into a pond with marginals, lilies. etc.

### **Litter Control:**

There were a couple of pieces of litter on the main street in Newtowncashel. As you know, this is a constant battle and requires constant vigilance. The bins throughout were in good order.

### **Tidiness:**

The village was exceptionally tidy. Neat verges from a long way out, well (though not overly) trimmed hedges and well maintained houses and buildings contributed to this - well done.

### **Residential Areas:**

The individual houses located through the village performed well in this category. One front wall did require repainting and, since there is little traffic, they should not be too difficult to keep clean. Other front and side gardens were maintained to a high standard - well done.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The road had recently had new pavement and therefore there was a fine clean sweep into the village from all approaches. The sweep down from Barley Harbour with the fencing on the left hand side was particularly effective. Signage had also been kept in good order throughout.

### **General Impression:**

Newtowncashel has set a high standard for itself and in order to achieve it must pay attention to the small details that require undertaking throughout the village. The quarry park is wonderful and a fine achievement. The judges look forward to a more structured approach to your planing with the submission of a development plan for the next five years. Well done on work to date and best of luck in the future.

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

The very high standards of presentation and development of Newtowncashel continue to pertain. The combination of the limestone quarry with its fine sculptures, the sculptures though the village with a unified style and the beautiful stonewalls gives Newtowncashel a unique appeal. Tremendous work

has been achieved at the Ballyreevagh quarry and great credit is due to all concerned. The sculpture artwork in the village has now become a very important characteristic of the village. The presentation of approach roadsides is very striking and the simple formula of very well tended grass with tree planting on the Barley Harbour Road is a perfect example of this. The stonewalls and the timber fence also contribute very well on this road. As mentioned above – detail, becomes so important as all standards are raised. The shed in the village on the corner of the Barley Harbour Road and Flynn's premises would benefit from some attention. Gardens play a very significant part in the overall appearance of the village and congratulations are due to the owners of the very well cared for gardens in the village – the garden at the post office is especially attractive.