

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Newtownforbes**

Ref: **223**

County: **Longford**

Mark: **196**

Category: **B**

Date: **30/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	32
The Built Environment	40	26	25
Landscaping	40	31	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	12
Litter Control	40	20	18
Tidiness	20	15	14
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	196	188

Overall Developmental Approach:

Many thanks for the comprehensive plan - much of which you are presently addressing. There is a good sense of satisfaction when you are able to tick off the allocated tasks. Thank you also for the map of the proposed Slí Na Sláinte routes. They will be most beneficial to the local people. The fact that the local community use, and are familiar with them, indicates that there are no access problems and this should aid their development progress.

Newtownforbes was looking well on a sunny Sunday afternoon

The Built Environment:

The buildings in Newtownforbes have progressed in recent years. The development of the GAA pitch was noted, and when complete will enhance the road. The school railings were freshly painted black and white, and it was good to note the small vegetable garden offering vegetables in the school. Mean Scoil Naomh Sheosamh needed a fresh coat of paint on its railings. It was good to see that work was being undertaken on two of the tudor houses in the town. Quaglianos and Caseys looked well. The convent on the corner is an imposing building and introduces the Sligo motorist to the town. The Church and grounds in the centre of the village were kept neat and tidy - well done.

Landscaping:

There were nice baskets on the community hall. It was commendable to note your involvement with the school children in the village. The houses and buildings that provided the floral displays are to be also commended as they make a welcome sight for the passing visitor. The landscaping in the Lamagh estate will mature and have a softening effect on the buildings. The entrance to the Castleforbes estate looked well with its well painted black bollards.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The identification of the fauna and flora of the village is an important step and you obviously have an appreciation of the local environment, its associated habitats and animals. The Slí Na Sláinte will incorporate an element of wildlife which will add to the enjoyment of the walkers. In saying that, although the judges did not walk the routes, take care as not to over manage the route as it is the integration within the rural landscape that usually makes a walk like this so attractive. Residents and school children should also be encouraged to attract bird life through the feeding by the use of bird tables and bird boxes. Bird Watch Ireland are involved in an annual winter survey which may be of interest to schoolchildren and community alike. Good management practises in relation to the environment should also be undertaken, with the use of non peat derivatives in landscaping (where possible). The Irish Peatland Conservation Council (in conjunction with RHSI) have information on this.

Litter Control:

Litter control was very good on the Sunday morning of the judging. This is highly commendable especially with the high flow of traffic through the village. The litterbins noted were also in good condition. It is commendable to hear that you work closely with the school. Recycling facilities were noted and were clean and tidy.

Tidiness:

The village was generally tidy. The main approach roads were good though the side road to Kilashee did have weedy gutters.

Residential Areas:

Lamagh is a fine estate and looked well on the day of adjudication. The fact that it is seen from the main road means that the landscaping contributes not just to the estate but to the whole village. The Meadow Court estate is well kept as is Castle Park and in Lios Breac the landscaped areas are maturing well. The fine houses on the road behind the Church of Ireland church looked very well with well kept gardens and neatly presented front areas. It is good to note that a number of the estates have residents associations - and are proud of the estates that they live in - from which they directly benefit - well done. Houses in the centre of the town were generally well presented - the use of traditional colours on the houses will help to enhance their architecture.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The main approach roads looked well - the Sligo approach was good and the picnic area well kept. The Ballinalee and Kilashee roads needed attention. The Ballinalee road had weedy gutters though there was a nice lead in. The main Longford road looked well and was neatly cut back. Signage in general was clean. As mentioned last year, traditional streetlights and the removal of overhead wires should be a consideration in the future.

General Impression:

Newtownforbes has become a very pleasant village - one that attracts the motorist to stop and stay

awhile rather than pass through. The encouragement of craftshops and other suitable shops which would entice people to stay a while should also be considered for the long term. There is evidence of great community spirit and the Tidy Towns involvement with all facets of the community is highly commendable. Well done - and best of luck in the ongoing progress of work.