

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Newcastle-Lyons**

Ref: **562**

County: **Dublin**

Mark: **196**

Category: **C**

Date: **29/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	32
The Built Environment	40	29	29
Landscaping	40	28	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	11	11
Litter Control	40	27	26
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>193</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Newcastle - Lyons are thanked once again for their entry to the Tidy Towns competition. The tidy towns committee is strong in numbers for such a small village in Dublin. However, an overall 3 year plan for the area should be included in future applications as it provides an overall structure for the development of the area.

The village itself has the benefit of a lovely rural setting and the committee should be commended for the development and maintenance of the village considering the large volumes of through traffic, and building works ongoing in the area. Local community groups and schools should be encouraged to become involved in the tidy towns project as much as possible. The ongoing work with SDCC in relation to a long term plan for landscaping for the area is encouraged.

### The Built Environment:

This lovely village was well presented on the day of adjudication. It has many positive features, and despite the large volumes of traffic through the village has a lovely rural feel to it. On the day of adjudication many of the shops in the village were well presented. The Gondola public house and letts butcher were well presented. The car park beside these shops was well maintained, as was the car park at the Pharmacy. The Texaco station was well maintained with little evidence of litter outside. The area beside the bus stop past the texaco station was well cared for with nice tree planting on either side of the bus lay-by. Newcastle Manor, once fully complete, will be a nice residential area. However, when all the houses have been occupied the traffic levels will increase

within the village. Extra traffic-calming measure, speed limit signs and Children Crossing signs will need to be put in place. The gates at the cemetery are in need of freshening up but overall the area was well maintained. The Catholic church is a lovely focal point in the centre of the village and the stained glass windows in the church looked new. The area around the church was well maintained; the community should be congratulated on its upkeep. The school beside the church could benefit from a small amount of work done over the summer; some paint work needed freshening up on the external wall. This could be an overall project that the children attending the school could become involved in, painting the school wall, planting some flowers and trees, etc. As you go out past St. Finians hall, which was well presented, the village began to feel a little derelict. It is a shame the building opposite St. Finians hall has not been developed; it would be good to even see possible plans for this area in future years. The village shop located here was closed on the day of adjudication; it would be a shame if this small village store was closed for good. It was a great shame to see that McEvoy's pub had obviously had a serious fire take place in it in recent weeks. From the picture enclosed in the application form it was a charming pub with a thatched roof. It is hoped that it will be redeveloped to its original state. The old petrol pumps located beside McEvoy's pub were quite unsightly as they are very run down; these could be developed also when the public house is being redeveloped. A possible landscaped area, with information on the area, possible walks and wildlife within the area could be placed here. The Glebe beside the Church of Ireland looked very well on the day of adjudication, unfortunately the adjudicator was unable to gain access on the day. A nice array of flowers were visible from the gates. Some external information on The Glebe would be beneficial.

### **Landscaping:**

In many areas of Newcastle there was evidence of nice landscaping and tree planting. The village benefits from a rural location, with lovely hedgerows and wild flowers on many of the approach roads. The newly planted area opposite the Catholic Church displayed a lovely array of colourful flowers and was well maintained. The benches in this location looked well. There is a nice planted area at the top of the road towards the Casement aerodrome, this area was well maintained. The entrance of some of the residential areas off the main road area were well presented with nice floral areas at the entrances. On either side of the main bus stop in Newcastle had lovely trees planted on either side which again enhanced the rural nature of the village.

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

The wildlife and natural amenities of the area could be developed and exposed a little more. Some information panels could be placed in the village on its history and the amenities surrounding the area. Again the local schools could become involved in identifying wildlife in the area and possibly putting together a small community newsletter that could include the information they have discovered. The plan sought to ensure that hedgerows would form part of the new housing developments should be pursued as this would be in keeping with the overall rural feel in the village.

### **Litter Control:**

Overall there was little evidence of litter on the day of adjudication within the area. The local residents should be commended on this and ensure that this standard is maintained. The clean up days and constant liaising with the litter warden seem to be paying off.

### **Tidiness:**

The overall tidiness of the area should be commended. There were a few areas on the day of adjudication in need of some kerb maintenance and trees bases should be maintained also. The ongoing building works within the area and the large volumes of trucks passing through cause some element of untidiness, however this seems to be kept to a minimum. The development of Newcastle Manor once fully complete will add to the overall tidiness of the area. Continue to ensure that all local residents are informed on the importance of keeping their own area tidy and maintaining kerbs and tree bases outside their houses.

### **Residential Areas:**

Many of the residential areas were well maintained. The houses on Peamount road looked well on the day of adjudication, as did the residential area towards Casement Aerodrome and out towards Newcastle farm.

Some kerb and tree base maintenance is required in some residential areas, it is important to keep the general areas nicely maintained as this contributed to the overall tidiness of the area. The house on the corner opposite Mc Evoys public house should be commended for a fine array of planting on the external grass area. Many of the fine houses on the main street were also maintained with lovely stoned walls. The continued leaflet drop to local residents informing them of the importance of upkeep of their areas should be continued as this create awareness among the residents.

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

The approach roads to Newcastle are well maintained with lovely hedgerows. The granite sign at the entrance to Newcastle along Peamount road looked well on the day of adjudication. The area could benefit from more signage in relation to residential areas, roads and the speed limits within the area, reminding the large volumes of traffic that Children are in the area and that they are entering a 30mph zone.

### **General Impression:**

Newcastle is a lovely rural village with some great potential. The local residents should continue their hard work on the up keep of all general areas and litter maintenance. All development which takes place in the area should be in keeping with the rural feel of the area. Overall the community should be commended on their village.