

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Newport-Mayo**

Ref: **432**

County: **Mayo**

Mark: **192**

Category: **B**

Date: **24/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	34
The Built Environment	40	30	30
Landscaping	40	28	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	19
Litter Control	40	20	21
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	28
General Impression	10	6	7
TOTAL MARK	300	192	197

Overall Developmental Approach:

Welcome to the 2004 Tidy Towns Competition. The adjudicator notes with concern that according to your entry form you have little if any local support apart from the Local Authority. It is essential that the people of the town support the work of your committee to the fullest possible extent. There is not a lot that nine local people can do on an day by day basis on their own in a town the size of Newport. Progress in the competition will be dependent on everyone working towards the same ends. With this in mind you should prepare a "3/5 Year rolling Tidy Towns Work Programme". This programme should have the support of the community, local groups other agencies and the County Council. It would therefore guide your Tidy Towns actions for the next three to five years. The Work Programme will detail the Tidy Towns objectives to be achieved by your committee in the years ahead. The preparation of such a Plan that is updated annually is now an essential aspect of the Tidy Towns Competition. The key features of the town are the two magnificent stone bridges and water. The Quay Road is a very attractive short water side drive.

The Built Environment:

Major works were underway in the northern part of the town at the time of adjudication and the adjudicator has allowed for the disruption caused by this in the allocation of marks for 2004. Bad street surfaces were noted in parts of the town and this should be the subject of discussion with the Local Authority. A large number of projecting signs were noted and probably most of these do not have any commercial necessity; perhaps you can discuss this with the property owners involved. On

the Quay Road a long derelict stone building was noted and it would be great to see this building restored for a new suitable use. The terrace of houses and shops south of the Black Oak river catches the eye. The School was well presented and colourful as was the Parochial Hall. The Railway Walk is potentially a very attractive walking and viewing area. However it is badly spoilt by damaged seating, dead grass and a lot of litter, some of which may have been there for some time. The Kelly's Garage site is a prominent one and the adjudicator awaits with interest the Local Authority plans for this site. On the main street there is a mix of shop front styles and ages; some are excellent and others are very poor. The Newport Gift and Woollen Mills property has a good use of colour that is effective. An environmental plan is needed for the main street that would examine shop fronts, signage, parking and colour coordination. Perhaps you could talk to the Local Authority about that concept.

Landscaping:

The riverside area south of the river has great landscaping potential, but on adjudication day the grass was not even cut. An attractive small landscaped park area was noted at the bridge opposite the playground. New planting at the Church looked well. Landscaping on approach roads was also noted but was rather low key in impact.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Have you considered having a Survey carried out of the flora and fauna in the town area? The results of such a Survey would help your Committee to focus on planting that will encourage wildlife to the area. A logical step following the Survey would be to provide display plaques illustrating the local flora and fauna. There must be excellent potential in the Newport area with the river and trees.

Litter Control:

Litter control was poor on adjudication day. Litter was noted near the town sign on the Westport approach, at the northern end of Quay Road and on the Railway Walk. Some litter was also noted on the main street. The question of litter control is an area that should receive priority attention for 2005.

Tidiness:

Many advertising signs were noted on the Westport approach. Perhaps there can be some degree of coordination agreed here to reduce the overall negative impact of so many signs. On the riverside road south of the river weed growth at kerbs was in evidence. In the main street the telephone box is in terrible condition and the door is missing - what a bad impression this gives. The display of retail goods on the pavement must be discouraged. It can cause difficulties for those in wheel chairs and also for the visually impaired.

Residential Areas:

Most private houses were well presented, and very colourful gardens were noted on the Mulranny approach road. Some attractive stone houses were noted here also. At the new housing estate on the Crossmolina road some division between the roadway and the verge is necessary. The new apartment block opposite the Quay Road looked very well.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

In general approach roads were poorly presented. Most verges had not been cut recently or had been badly cut and cut grass not removed. On the Quay Road some division between the grass verge and the roadway is desirable.

General Impression:

Newport has a lovely location and the town has good potential. However a carefully planned approach is necessary in which work on the main street will be a key element.