

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Newport-Tipperary Nth**

Ref: **408**

County: **Tipperary North**

Mark: **207**

Category: **B**

Date: **24/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	39
The Built Environment	40	30	30
Landscaping	40	31	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	23	23
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	26
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	207	206

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you very much for the application form, unfortunately the referred to information sheet did not arrive and the adjudicator had to rely on what was submitted and on his own assessment.

I would concur with the sentiments expressed in last year's report that you should encourage more local involvement.

The Town is growing and with the advent of new housing developments comes an influx of people.

The Built Environment:

The town has quite a lot of new housing development in progress and also judging by planning notices there seems to be quite a lot more on the way.

It is hoped that the infrastructure and allied services will be able to cope for such expansions.

Also it is hoped that these new developments will be a positive addition to the Town.

Overall the standard in this category was rather mixed.

For instance in the public buildings sector one had the excellent Church of The Redeemer and surrounding grounds and in contrast the poorly maintained Garda Station.

The Church of Ireland Grounds were in very good condition with the graveyard area nicely trimmed and tidy.

The Schools both primaries and post primary were up to an acceptable standard.

In the private and commercial buildings sector the new shop units on the Ballinahinch Road are a big

asset.

The following were noted for basic presentation and the manner which they enhanced the streetscape of the Town.

E O Sullivans is an example of a well maintained traditional shop front.

Hacketts Pharmacy, McGraths Bar on the Bridge, J Lee Publican and Auctioneer, On the Rails new shop front of good design and the Skoda Dealers Henry Murphy well maintained premises and fore court.

The GAA Grounds also deserves praise for the way it is presented as it gives a good impression of the Club.

As there is no action plan attached one was not able to deduce if there was provision for an urban renewal scheme for Newport in the pipeline.

It is a town with many fine features but has some derelict and untidy buildings that need to be addressed.

Landscaping:

There are a number of excellent planting arrangements in the town and its environs but there are also areas that could benefit from a landscaping programme in the years ahead.

The Committee should detail any such plans in next years submission.

The Riverside Park had a good mix of suitable shrubs and flowers, a well manicured green area and well maintained and tidy paths.

Planting shrubs and flowers at the base of trees should be discouraged and advice should be sought from the local horticultural section of the County Council on how to maintain maturing trees in the town.

The previously mentioned Church of the Redeemer and the Church of Ireland had some attractive planting arrangements both within and adjacent to grounds.

Some well stocked and colourful baskets and tubs were observed around the town, credit to the residents that take time to put these in place.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

A comment on plans under this category cannot be made because of the absence of relevant information.

The adjudicator would like to reiterate what was said in last years report, that it would be a very useful exercise to get the local schools involved in putting together a programme that would reflect the history of wildlife associated with the area.

Litter Control:

The standard was rather mixed, some parts of the town were free of litter and other parts could make a better effort.

It is important that the Committee encourages all sections of the community to get involved in the process of good litter control.

School children should also be included in this exercise, standards will improve if the example is set by adults.

Tidiness:

Overall the standard was acceptable but there was too much obvious evidence of untidiness in more central parts of the town.

A focal point such as the Bridewell Centre needs to have its grounds at least free of weed growth and there was far too much weed growth evident on the day of adjudication.

Fly posting is still an issue and a few commercial premises had tatty, and in two cases at least, broken plastic signs.

The positives were those owners that kept their premises and boundary areas up to a very high standard.

Again it is incumbent on any Tidy Towns Committee to try and get all the local community to take ownership of issues such as tidiness.

Residential Areas:

The town is experiencing a boom in house building at the moment, this will add new residential estates. These I feel will overall have a positive effect on the Town but I would urge caution that there has to be a point when a decision to curb this type of development has to be taken.

It was noticeable that there were plans for further developments, of over 90 more houses or thereabouts, and one wonders is this beneficial to a town the size of Newport.

The older housing developments such as Terrace of Houses on the Murroe Road, those on the Ballinahinch Road and Sli Ailbe all looked as if they were well cared for with boundary walls and back areas clean and tidy. Of course there were one or two who were out of line and these are in every town.

The new development at Glencree will be a nice area when more mature.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The standard here was very acceptable with room for improvement in a few places.

The entrance from Limerick was in good condition enhanced by the additional new footpath to the outskirts of the town. Construction work on this road has caused a little inconvenience.

The Murroe entrance was acceptable except for a few untidy back areas that need to be tidied up.

The Thurles Road entrance is also effected by construction work which has contributed to a poor surface on part of the road. Again when this is complete it will be an impressive entrance as verges and signs were well maintained.

The Nenagh Road was in excellent condition helped in no small manner by some nice individual gardens.

The Ballinahinch Road was also well maintained with signs visible and clean and most visible back areas tidy.

General Impression:

Newport is a town familiar to this adjudicator as a stop over point on the way to matches in Thurles.

The town has seen a big increase in housing developments over the last number of years and it is hoped that these will enhance rather than hinder Newport.

The Town has potential to do well in the Competition and the Committee should see this as a positive observation and take steps to put together a 3 year action plan.