

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Newtownmountkennedy**

Ref: **630**

County: **Wicklow**

Mark: **175**

Category: **C**

Date: **08/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27	27
The Built Environment	40	27	28
Landscaping	40	22	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	19
Litter Control	40	22	24
Tidiness	20	14	15
Residential Areas	30	18	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	20
General Impression	10	5	6
TOTAL MARK	300	175	177

Overall Developmental Approach:

The map and additional information supplied with the entry form were very helpful at adjudication time and gave a great insight into the situation in Newtownmountkennedy. On first glance it is apparent that a major plan is required covering all aspects of the village and surrounds rather than any piecemeal attempt at making isolated improvements. With the development of the bypass one would have imagined that this would have led to an improvement in the village – this does not appear to be the case. There is an improvement as regards traffic flow but the fabric of the village has not improved. The village appears at an important crossroads now and the only way forward – as suggested in your notes, is the production of a Masterplan. The public meeting held last October seems to have generated much discussion and it is important that future planning is inclusive of all needs of all interested parties. The part the tidy towns committee can play in the future plan will be critical to success as the strength of the committee's activities is in the community spirit it engenders.

The Built Environment:

The Two churches look particularly well and form two important landmarks in the village. The number of well painted and presented business premises look good. There are a number of derelict premises and those requiring attention, which appear prominent through the village. Plastic protruding signs from business premises detract from the streetscape.

Landscaping:

The small planted features through the village add some colour for the summer. The green space opposite the Town Hall with the commemorative stone is a little dreary. Some very good gardens along the roadsides contribute well to the overall landscape of the village and good credit is due for their efforts.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The woodland walk is very attractive and offers great opportunity for observation and appreciation of the wildlife of the area. This is readily accessible from the village and represents a very useful amenity. Progress on the Neighbourhood project in Mount Kennedy wood by the Coillte Office is interesting and this is an important initiative.

Litter Control:

The Monday night litter patrols are an excellent idea. The adjudication took place on a Friday. Litter was noted on several locations in the village and at the entrance to the woodland walk, continued campaigns and awareness will help people to realise that they are responsible for their litter and that everybody benefits from a litter free environment.

Tidiness:

With the present state of buildings and construction work in progress it is difficult to present a tidy appearance in the village. Various styles of boundaries, various styles of paving and buildings fabric and signs all contribute to a very mixed collection of features and a more unified theme would be welcome.

Residential Areas:

The large Seasons Park is nicely fronted by an extensive green. This is well maintained and forms a good frontage for the estate. Within the estate there are some very well maintained houses and gardens. Those that look after their own homes, gardens and road frontage contribute well to the overall appearance of the estate. Overgrown hedges and unfinished widening of entrances to houses need attention. The Mountain View and Spring Field estates have well maintained open green spaces. Individual houses along the approach roadsides contribute well. New developments at Rossmore will add a new style of living to the village.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads are well cared for with good green verges, well maintained and giving a pleasant approach to the village – especially the entrance from the north end of the village. Within the village the road surface is very broken and patchy and needs attention. Parking is disorganized and unhelpful – it is good to see this mentioned in the notes supplied as an important issue. Footpaths are very variable and likewise kerbing.

General Impression:

Newtownmountkenedy is on the brink of major change. The future must involve serious thought and careful long-term planning. This village has the potential to be a very prominent Wicklow village and hopefully this will happen.

