

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Newmarket-Cork**

Ref: **27**

County: **Cork North**

Mark: **194**

Category: **C**

Date: **20/06/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	25
The Built Environment	40	28	27
Landscaping	40	27	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	12
Litter Control	40	27	25
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	25
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>184</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for a most informative and helpful submission outlining work in progress and plans for the future. It was a first-ever visit for this adjudicator and one which proved most pleasing to witness such progress in this busy town. Your town is now one of a small number of pleasant market towns, with an abundance of traditional features and many historic buildings. It is alas, also one of many towns trying to cope with an inordinate amount of traffic, for which it was never designed. There is evidence of an active committee and the assistance of IRD Duhallow/Fás and other agencies now enables you to tackle many projects of interest. The illustrated map was helpful to assess the merits of your entry.

### The Built Environment:

The town has a plethora of many fine buildings and many shops still retain their traditional character of the 19th century. In general public buildings are well presented and many have gone the extra mile in presenting their premises to a high standard. We applaud the restoration of the Garda Baracks and the installation of traditional sash windows represents a 'breadth of fresh air': well done to the OPW. If you compare these windows with those installed in the James O Keefe Institute you can see the sad mistakes of the past. Schools and churches were well presented. The car park at the Catholic Church could be improved with some landscaping. Newmarket/Ath Trasna is an important market town and as a committee you need to impress upon developers the importance of maintaining the rural character of its buildings. In this respect you will need to liaise closely with the

planning authorities and establish a good working relationship.

### **Landscaping:**

We acknowledge the additional landscaping since last year and commend you on your landscaping programme. This will prove beneficial with the passing of time. In particular tree and shrub planting are immensely important on approach roads. The Charleville approach is well landscaped and this policy should be applied to other approaches. We also acknowledge the great individual efforts of numerous residents who are cooperating with you in your endeavours. You should consider a town tree-planting scheme that would give added beauty to the town. It may not be possible to plant on each street because of width but many streets are capable of appropriate tree planting.

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

This relatively new category is now undergoing great popularity and many centres are embarking on wildlife projects. We suggest you liaise closely with the schools and also seek advice from wildlife enthusiasts who will assist you with good advice and help. When tree planting make sure you plant species that will give provide food source in autumn and winter.

### **Litter Control:**

Litter control throughout is very good and we were impressed with the degree of cleanliness. Litter bins seem adequate in numbers and are well presented. The Bring Bank is very poorly presented and not suitable in its current position. The containers are dirty and present a poor image.

### **Tidiness:**

Your problems here relate to unattended open spaces in need of a clean-up. Also, many incomplete developments are causing untidiness. You need to encourage developers to finish well, to include landscaping and remove rubble from the site. Long-term you should try and get overhead wires put underground . This would add significantly to the appearance of the town. It now quite normal for towns the size of Newmarket to have a programme for laying cables underground.

### **Residential Areas:**

The standard of housing and their presentation is quite good. The road up to the James O Keeffe is pleasant and many individuals have worked hard to present their premises to a high standard. The chainlink fencing here should be removed. In general housing estates are well presented, but some need boundary attention. Some houses on the Charleville Road are really excellent and provide a positive image for this area. You should consider a local competition for gardens and houses. Such a competition would stimulate interest and lead to a raising of standards.

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

Your biggest single problem relates to traffic congestion. We find it surprising that you have not introduced one way streets and a better discipline of parking. In particular we found New Street inadequate in width for two way traffic.

We applaud your developments of the McAuliffe Clan feature and the very attractive Sarah Curran memorial. These two developments are impressive and well executed. However, the large ESB pole at the Sarah Curran feature is now unsightly.

### **General Impression:**

The town was busy on a fine June adjudication day and was pleasant to walk through. We can see the hand of FÁS in many areas and your challenge now is to generate greater interest and

involvement from the community. Partnership is the way forward and your plan provides for continued progress. We wish you well in your endeavours.