

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Newcestown Village**

Ref: **515**

County: **Cork West**

Mark: **237**

Category: **A**

Date: **08/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	32
The Built Environment	40	34	34
Landscaping	40	36	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	36	36
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	33	31
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	237	234

Overall Developmental Approach:

Newcestown is welcome to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Competition. There are excellent views of the village itself, the church and the hills of the surrounding countryside from both the Castletown Kinnaigh Road and the Killmurray Road. The village looks particularly well having had substantial work accomplished for its presentation over the past year. New road surfaces, footpaths and signage has been noted. We empathise with the problem regarding getting new people involved in the Tidy Towns initiative and commend your efforts in this regard. The committee should not loose heart and know that they share this problem with many, and perhaps the majority, of Tidy Towns Committees throughout the country. Well done on your three / five year plan for the redevelopment of the Pitch and Putt amenity facility and congratulations on the refurbishment of the grotto.

The Built Environment:

O'Mahony's Bar and Lounge enjoys an excellence in presentation both to the building itself but and particularly to its beautifully surfaced and well lined and landscaped car parking area together with the patio. What appears to be the old national school and is perhaps now a community hall is nicely presented and its car park is lined. The school on the Castletown Kinnaigh Road is beautifully landscaped to its roadside edge but its boundary wall could be improved. The Edward J. Galvin Memorial was especially admired with its fine stone work and permanent landscaping. Perhaps the shop on the Castletown Kinnaigh Road could be painted an attractive colour, petrol pumps here need to be improved. The boundary wall of the school on the Killmurray Road is a little weather stained

and would look well if painted, the Post Office premises could also receive some attention.

Landscaping:

Work accomplished for the grotto is impressive and this feature of the village is an excellent introduction to Newcestown on entering from an approach road with the church as a backdrop. The use of limestone to complement the natural rock formation is quite stunning. The landscaped area at another entrance to the village with its green open space, mature trees and brightly coloured and well painted farm implements is a nice touch. Landscaping at other locations is tastefully executed also. Flower tubs at the entrance to Pairc Naomh Eoin looked a bit dried up on adjudication day and it would have been best if they had been taken in. The flower display to the residential property adjoining the Post Office premises was especially admired.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The entrance driveway to the Pitch and Putt facility is poorly surfaced, however we note proposed developments in this regard and the three / five year plan for the further development of this facility. The basketball court did not enjoy good presentation, its boundary looked poor, its surface was weedy, the lines were faded and the adjudicator wondered if it was still in use. The entrance to Pairc Naomh Eoin was neatly presented and enjoyed an attractive boundary wall with neat hedgerow backed by Cypress trees. Perhaps the committee could work with school children on a project identifying local wildlife.

Litter Control:

It is good to note that Newcestown competes in Cork County Council's Anti-Litter League, well done. The village was litter free on adjudication day and you have scored well yet again under this heading. Do keep us up to date on your daily litter routine activities as these can also be the source of additional marks. Perhaps the school could be encouraged to apply for Green Flag status. Litter bins look well.

Tidiness:

The building materials at the end of the driveway at the entrance to the Pitch and Putt facilities were sprouting long weeds on the day of adjudication. We note from your application that this sand is needed for greens, however it should not be allowed to sprout weeds as this suggests neglect and stagnation. Well done on the bottle banks in the car park of the old school. Some derelict looking petrol pumps at a garage on the entrance from one approach road should be masked or upgraded in some way. The colour scheme here to match the colour scheme of the farm implements was admired.

Residential Areas:

Stone boundary walls to the roadside area of dwellings are a nice feature of Newcestown Village. Some beautiful gardens were noted to detached dwellings on the Killmurray Road and a tree planted grass verge to the stone boundary wall of one sets the standard which should be followed by others. Some new dwellings with undeveloped gardens have been noted, no doubt these will be completed for next year. The same point can be made in respect of new dwellings on the Enniskeen Road.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Verges of approach roads were presented to a mixed standard on adjudication day. Some had been recently cut however cuttings had not been removed and had yellowed by the time of adjudication, however new ferns spreading through added some welcome colour. The traffic island in the village centre is a nice feature with good clear fingerpost signage, landscaping and an attractive stone plinth. Nameplates look well and road surfaces and footpaths were in good condition. Some

stretches of very old stone walls could be improved. There were some nicely landscaped verges on the Enniskeen Road. Gulleys on each side of approach roads were noted. The wirescape in the village centre was not too visually obtrusive.

General Impression:

The overall appearance of Newcestown Village is one of a most attractive settlement which has achieved a high standard of presentation in all areas, well done.

Second Round Adjudication:

At second adjudication Newcestown was looking very well and there is a great sense of pride in the village. Neat hedge trimming and well-kept roadside gardens gave a very impressive appearance to the village. The School and GAA grounds and their entrances were in very good order. Business premises looked very smart with good décor standards. The village was very clean and good attention to detail was noted. New Footpaths have improved the appearance of the village. A number of new houses have been built and are integrating well into the village. The displays of old farm machinery add an interesting touch. The Church, graveyard and grotto all look especially well.