

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Newcastle**

Ref: **8**

County: **Tipperary South**

Mark: **226**

Category: **B**

Date: **16/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	37
The Built Environment	40	30	30
Landscaping	40	34	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	19
Litter Control	40	27	27
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	26	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	28
General Impression	10	8	7
TOTAL MARK	300	226	219

Overall Developmental Approach:

Newcastle Tidy Towns Committee shows that it obviously cares about its village a great deal. You work closely in conjunction with South Tipperary County Council and the BN&B Community Employment Project. Your problems with vandalism are really appalling and, hopefully, the perpetrators will be found and brought to justice. Damage to the trees, flowerbeds and bridge are dreadful - especially in such a peaceful place, which shows an obvious care and concern for its environment! There is a good use of the Irish language within the village. Your plans for new wall, fences and bridge at the Glen (in order to make it wheelchair - accessible) are commendable. Your outline of work completed,, is very interesting but as mentioned in last year's report, and that of the year before, you need to plan for your village's future, by putting together a work programme. This way you will be able to set dates for completion of projects and see your progress as the years go by. This document need only be one or two pages long and you can use your Tidy Towns reports over the last number of years, as a starting point.

The Built Environment:

The national school looked well and its tower was in the process of being painted on the day - the rest of buildings that form this complex were very fresh. The post office looked well as did the church and grounds and boundary wall although the gates were a little rusty. William Miles Butcher's was very fresh as was Nugents. John O'Donnell's should be painted before next year's competition. The community hall looked very fresh and the creamery was for sale on the day.

Landscaping:

The magnificent picnic area on a raised stone plinth at a bend, in the Ardfinnan Road was admired, as was the picnic area at the car park, with its beds of lavender and roses at the boundary wall. The marvellous water feature in the village centre, with its attractive planting and seating either side, was admired and work in this regard is admirable. Some damage was evident to the picnic tables in the car park. The village pump is also a fine feature. The magnificently maintained graveyard on the Clogheen Road was greatly admired.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

School children were being brought to the picnic area of the car park and the Glen on adjudication day and there was much evidence of wild birdlife there at the time! Your work in relation to composting is to be commended, from an environmental point of view and your composting bin was noted at Barnard Cross. It is a pity that your work in relation to introducing ducks to the Glen did not come to pass, due to problems with wild mink.

Litter Control:

Litter control on the day was reasonably good, given the fact that you feel you have a problem in this area. One or two papers were noted along the main streets and roadways, however, and rubbish was noted opposite the school.

Tidiness:

Do ensure that building materials are removed once work is complete - a pile of sand was evident in the car park area beside the church. The entrance areas to the GAA pitches appeared somewhat neglected. A large abandoned green house in the village centre is in very bad condition, unfortunately, and creates a bad impression in its prominent location. Don't neglect outbuildings when it comes to the overall presentation of the village. In terms of the recycling area, the receptacle for cans appeared somewhat flaky. Perhaps you could consider a landscaping project over the next year for this area, in order that the bins are screened and blend in somewhat into their environment - perhaps a stone wall? Screening should be provided to the yard area beside the Glen and the oil tank behind the church would also benefit from some screening.

Residential Areas:

Some new houses were being built in the village centre - it is to be hoped that these will be of a character and style that is suitable to their location. Some attractive gardens with stone boundary walls on the Clonmel Road were greatly admired. The Graigue Mhuire Estate was admired with its new trees and displays of lavender. The Deora De housing is quite charming and pretty cottages in consistent and toning colours were admired near the village centre.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Ardfinnan Road is an attractive entrance to the village over the River Suir. The welcome sign with its petunias planted beneath looked well. The narrow grass margins had been cut but the dead grass had yet to be removed. The standard of the Ballymacarbery / Clonmel Road was better, with well maintained verges and a most attractive green space with inset angled stone retaining wall.

General Impression:

Newcastle is a most attractive village which was a pleasure for this adjudicator to visit for the first time. Congratulations on all the hard work that you have done. It has certainly paid off as the village looked extremely well on adjudication day.