

# Tidy Towns Competition 2006

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Newmarket** Ref: **658**  
County: **Cork (North)** Mark: **201**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **20/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	28
The Built Environment	50	28
Landscaping	50	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	13
Litter Control	50	26
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>201</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Newmarket Tidy Towns and Traders Association is certainly an enthusiastic one with a 24 strong committee! As you are a traders association you are therefore at the pulse of the town and are the people who can directly make a real difference. Your plans in relation to the flower garden and shrubbery in Town Park are looked forward to with anticipation, as at the moment it appears quite bare. The plans of a monument to Alice Taylor are also looked forward to. The adjudicator notes that you plan a walk – will it be a heritage one? You would appear to have a good relationship with the local schools and get the children involved in fundraising. Your presentation to 5th class will pay dividends in years to come as it is never too early to foster an awareness in the environment. Perhaps you could consider planting more trees in the town centre which would help in breaking up the large run of car parking that you currently have and that you plan to increase in the future. The adjudicator was delighted to note that you have a laudable aspiration to win the competition some day!

### **The Built Environment:**

This was generally reasonable. Some shopfronts were quite fresh while others appeared a little neglected in comparison. Do ensure that signage is in good condition and not damaged – one was noted to a garage in the town. The AIB appeared fresh with magnificent hanging baskets – but its canopy was quite grubby. The Garda Station looked very fresh with well maintained grounds. The Catholic Church was fine. The video library in a nice stone building was admired – the old secondary school. The boys National School was quite fresh. The Post Office appeared a little patchy to its plinth area and should be painted before next year's competition. The CYMS Hall looked well and Newmarket Motors was admired for its sharp and slick modern appearance. One or two of the buildings were not to the same standard however – indeed one appeared, on first impressions to have been abandoned as it was so neglected but then the adjudicator noticed that it was in fact open and doing business!

**Landscaping:**

The Town Park was fine but looking a little patchy on the day following the good spell of weather. Some litter was apparent in this location. The landscaping to the front of the Highland Lounge on the Kanturk Road looked very well. The Sarah Curran and McAuliffe monuments were both well and simply presented. The grotto looked extremely well maintained with hedging around its statuary. The graveyard of the Church of Ireland was being well maintained. The attractive landscaping with sleeper surrounds on the Charleville Road to the front of a building site was greatly admired. Unfortunately the Four Season's wall was not completed on the day but is looked forward to with anticipation.

**Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

Your work in relation to conservation at the island wood area is commendable as is the Millstream walk. You plan a nature reserve and a rural walkway and these are looked forward to with anticipation.

**Litter Control:**

Unfortunately the standard of litter control on the day was not good. Litter was apparent throughout the streets of the town, along approach roads, in the park area and outside the National School.

**Waste Minimisation:**

The recycling bins showed evidence of dumping with a number of plastic bags and a large amount of litter. This was a problem at last year's adjudication also. The bins were extremely grubby and dumping and littering was evident around the skip area in this location.

**Tidiness:**

Yard areas should be screened from public view where possible. Landscaping to the tidy yard areas of the O'Connor Group and the Co op would help Their appearance although they were extremely tidy some "greening" would soften their appearance. Be sure not to neglect outbuildings when considering presentation. There were two tin roofs on Gurteen Street which could do with a repaint in their traditional red or green colours – one was a pretty vernacular building which was quite charming. Another on the bend of the Kanturk approach also looked quite neglected. A pile of stones and a large empty site on this road drew attention – what is intended to happen here – is it a temporary situation? The windows of the old Church of Ireland, Christchurch were broken. The adjudicator was delighted to hear that it is getting a new lease of life which will be a great asset to the community in terms of a library and coffee shop meeting area. Weed control was a problem to kerbsides on the Rockchapel Road. There are quite a number of empty sites and construction sites within the centre of the town which created a negative impression. On the positive side a very small single storey vernacular building and long wall opposite had been freshly whitewashed on the Charleville approach.

**Residential Areas:**

The standard in this category was generally fine. An attractive garden on the Kanturk Road was admired as was a very attractive Neo Gothic house in stone and render which was quite unusual. Street houses were generally well maintained throughout the town. Some attractive gardens and houses were noted on the Charleville Road.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Signage was grubby in places and some of the roads were not maintained to the highest of standards but generally the standard was not too bad. On the Kanturk Road the verges had been cut back but the dead grass had not yet been removed to one side but the far side of the road was quite overgrown. The precast concrete fencing in this location could be replaced with an attractive stone wall similar to that being built at the Four Seasons wall. Further in the verges were maintained to a higher standard but litter was evident along roadsides. The children crossing sign will need touching up. New footpaths were noted in places, on the Rockchapel Road (where more litter was apparent) and the Charleville Road where the grass had been cut but dead grass had not been removed – litter was also apparent here. Traffic and congestion is a major problem as identified by yourselves and the adjudicator was pleased to note that you have acquired a traffic warden. Hopefully the new parking arrangements will be beneficial but do, as stressed previously in this report, try and ensure that they are landscaped in order to reduce their impact somewhat and break up the long run of car parking. Have you considered providing visitor maps of the town and area along the streets?

**General Impression:**

Newmarket is a busy town with good wide streets. The committee shows great enthusiasm on paper which will need reflecting on the ground as at the moment the town appears a little bit patchy. Good luck with your future work.

