

# Tidy Towns Competition 2007

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Newtowngore** Ref: **436**  
County: **Leitrim** Mark: **175**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **23/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	23
The Built Environment	50	27
Landscaping	50	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	12
Litter Control	50	26
Waste Minimisation	20	2
Tidiness	30	12
Residential Areas	40	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	21
General Impression	10	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>175</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

The adjudicator would like to welcome Newtowngore back to the Tidy Towns Competition after an absence of a few years. The village is a really welcome entrant this year. Your last sentry was in 2005 and since then there have been changes in the competition. The marking scheme has been revised as you will see and a new category called Waste Minimisation has been introduced. As recommended by the adjudicator in 2005 your Tidy Towns Committee should prepare a 3 Year Tidy Towns Plan for Newtowngore. This should be a very simple document that gives details of your desired projects each year over the period 2008 to 2011. This Plan should also give details of the organisations or agencies that can support each project and a rough estimate of the cost of each project. It is noted that your Committee meets every three months but you may find it better to meet on a more regular basis especially when you have your Plan in place.

### **The Built Environment:**

The adjudicator would like to welcome Newtowngore back to the Tidy Towns Competition after an absence of a few years. The village is a really welcome entrant this year. Your last sentry was in 2005 and since then there have been changes in the competition. The marking scheme has been revised as you will see and a new category called Waste Minimisation has been introduced. As recommended by the adjudicator in 2005 your Tidy Towns Committee should prepare a 3 Year Tidy Towns Plan for Newtowngore. This should be a very simple document that gives details of your desired projects each year over the period 2008 to 2011. This Plan should also give details of the organisations or agencies that can support each project and a rough estimate of the cost of each project. It is noted that your Committee meets every three months but you may find it better to meet on a more regular basis especially when you have your Plan in place.

### **Landscaping:**

The shrub planting plans for the road junction were noted. Around the village the small flower containers and

the hanging baskets added colour which was quite attractive. A number of small landscaped areas will usually have a greater impact than just large one. In an attractive village like Newtowngore artificial landscaping should be kept to a minimum and any landscaping that you do should echo the natural landscaping of the surrounding countryside.

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

Your entry form mentioned a project with the local Gun Club but details were not provided. You might submit details of this with your entry for 2008. Hopefully your committee will consider some projects that will make Newtowngore even more attractive for wildlife. However on an early June morning it was great to hear the birdsong in the village and the surrounding area.

#### **Litter Control:**

On the day of adjudication litter control was quite good. It was also good in June 2005 on the day of the last adjudication so you are keeping your standards up. Here and there casual littering was noted on approach roads. Have you involved the School in anti litter programmes? If not it may be worth talking to one of the teachers about the possibilities.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

This is a new category in the Tidy Towns Competition first introduced in 2006. The purpose of this new category is to encourage Tidy Towns Committees and the local community to get involved in projects that will reduce waste and encourage recycling. Marks can be gained for the promotion of best practice. This can include community guidance on methods of reducing waste such as segregating litter during clean up events. The organising of a Workshop on waste minimisation in your community is another initiative that you might consider. This could be held on a waste minimisation community awareness day as part of a series of local initiatives. You could also consider a partnership with local firms and businesses to encourage them to reduce unnecessary waste. In regard to waste minimisation it is important to remember that quite small actions can sometimes have a significant waste reduction impact. The Race Against Waste booklet circulated to all Tidy Towns Committee in 2006 has many ideas on waste reduction that may be of help to your committee. Congratulations to the School on achieving Green Flag status and it is noted that they are involved in recycling projects.

#### **Tidiness:**

On the approach from the south the timber fencing needs to be treated with preservative. Opposite Millview Park a very large rather untidy open site was noted and perhaps it may be possible to have this screened from public view. At the village road junction at the Hall a total 10 different directional signs were noted and these looked rather untidy. Can you talk with your Local Engineer about the possibility of rationalizing the signage at this junction? Perhaps a small landscaped area at the base of the signs might be considered. At the stone wall opposite the Catholic Church grass and weed growth was noted at the base of the wall and this looked a little untidy.

#### **Residential Areas:**

The development of 60 houses in the past year is noted and this must have had an impact on the village. Well presented individual houses were noted on the approach from the south. The development of Millview Park was under way on adjudication day and hopefully appropriate landscaping plans have been included in the development. The Woodford Green development is an interesting one finished and designed to a high standard. Whether the design best reflects the rural setting is another question. The angled buildings at the corner between the road and the estate entrance proper have been skillfully designed.

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

On the approach to the Catholic Church no work appeared to have been done on the approach road and the village sign was partially obscured by growth. Coming from the south the bank on the right opposite the houses had not been cut. The narrow verge on the Ballinamore approach had been cut and this approach has the potential to look quite good with frequent cutting.

#### **General Impression:**

It is great to have Newtowngore back in the Tidy Towns Competition. This Report has offered quite a number of suggestions for improvement that can be considered by your Committee for inclusion in the 3 Year Plan. The adjudicator would like to wish you well in your important work for Tidy Towns in 2008.

