

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Newcastle** Ref: **644**
County: **Tipperary (South)** Mark: **237**
Category: **B** Date(s): **25/06/2007**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2007 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Overall Development Approach | 50 | 37 |
| The Built Environment | 50 | 30 |
| Landscaping | 50 | 35 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 50 | 20 |
| Litter Control | 50 | 28 |
| Waste Minimisation | 20 | 8 |
| Tidiness | 30 | 16 |
| Residential Areas | 40 | 26 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 50 | 29 |
| General Impression | 10 | 8 |
| TOTAL MARK | 400 | 237 |

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to the 2007 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission, which included your Tidy Town plan for 2007. Newcastle is well situated on the river Siur. Located between the Knockmealdown Mountains, which rise to the southwest, and the Comeraghs to the east, catering for both the east Munster Way and the Knockmaeldown Drive. The committee is to be congratulated for their engagement with Tipperary County Council (SR), FAS, the GAA, the school and local businesses. The results of this co-operation is already paying dividends and you are to be congratulated on the achievement of a heritage award for your work to the extremely attractive and uniquely located Old Cemetery, carried out under the Rural Social Scheme. This project is considered eligible for the Heritage Award. The use of the Irish language on signs throughout the village is a worthy initiative. If some of the individual signs were of a higher standard this would considerably enhance the visual environment and the uniqueness of the village.

The Built Environment:

Newcastle is a particularly attractive village and still contains much of the character of a vernacular rural Irish settlement. Nugent's Pub and the adjacent take-away located at the cross-roads of the village core are particularly good and could be listed for preservation. Previous reports have highlighted signage that could be improved and reorganised and it was noted that this work remains to be completed.

Opposite Liam O Loinsigh Park, the display board illustrates new commercial development about to be constructed. This development will be an attractive addition to the village. The centrally located Scoil Mhuire was brightly painted and the grass area of its grounds neatly manicured. The attractive shrubbery located to the front was brightly planted and weed free. The nicely designed Scoil Naionra is a valuable addition to the village. Its central location adjacent to the Munitir na Tire Community Hall, should ensure its sustainability.

Landscaping:

The millennium water feature, together with the Church and its grounds and its linkage to the Glenside Walkway is the aesthetic highlight of the village. The Walking Trail information board opposite the water feature is easily accessible to the visitor.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Glenside Walk is a tremendous asset to the village and was once again much admired on the day of adjudication. The ongoing problem with the mink is noted and it is to be hoped that a solution will be found to this problem. The reintroduction of mallard duck, when possible, will enhance this area.

Litter Control:

Congratulations on the spring clean up in conjunction with the school children. Litter control was excellent around the village. No doubt your scheme of daily cleanup involving volunteers is successful. It is to be hoped that the Local Authority will be in a position to control the illegal dumping in the car park.

Waste Minimisation:

The recycling centre was again well presented and we note the committee's engagement with Tipperary County Council. It is to be hoped that this programme will be developed in the coming years and that more initiatives in the Race Against Waste booklet will be adopted in the future

Tidiness:

The open storage yard in the village centre, if screened, would provide an immediate improvement to the overall village. This screening if sympathetically treated would also enhance the Glenside Walk. Well done on general tidiness throughout the village.

Residential Areas:

Dwellings are presented to a high standard within the residential estates. Both Deora De and Graig Mhuire contain private gardens of a very high standard and the announcement flowerbeds at the public roadside were particularly admired.

Liam O Loinisgh Park is an attractive scheme designed around a village green. The green space was manicured and litter free on the day. It was noted that the new development opposite is under construction. When completed this development will enhance the approach from Ballymacarbery and give a strong definition to the street close by the village core.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

On the day of adjudication verge cutting was underway on the Ballymacarbery Approach Road. This is a particularly attractive entrance with some well presented residences adjoining. The Clogheen entrance contains some stunning flower displays located on a well maintained widened verge. We note that the committee had a problem with both the telephone kiosk and the bus shelter. Well done on the cleanup effort as these were graffiti-free on the day. Your footpath weed programme has been a success. We note the committee's ongoing plans for the restoration of the very attractive old stone walls at the Goaten Bridge entrance.

General Impression:

The ongoing works and development at Newcastle are enhancing the natural character and charm of the village.