

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Newbliss** Ref: **612**  
County: **Monaghan** Mark: **200**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **01/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	28
Landscaping	50	21
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	27
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	11
Residential Areas	40	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	23
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>200</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Thank you for the submission of your TidyTowns Development Plan 2007-2010. The map was very clear and of great assistance to the adjudicator. Please note that it is not sufficient to only submit the plan you are still required to complete the official application form for the year in question as it is here that you should indicate the actions completed for this particular year. It is also important that if there are areas that are not included in the plan that you can highlight these to the adjudicator. Your ongoing partnership with Monaghan County Council and the Community Employment Scheme is commendable.

### **The Built Environment:**

The heritage signage was noted and admired. Similarly public lighting and water pumps add to the village but could do with a fresh coat of paint before next years competition. You are commended on the freshly painted appearance of the Market House as suggested by last years adjudicator. Nice Bite and Martin's Emo were well presented. Dan's bar was outstanding in appearance and really sets the standard! The Stag's in looked well however the wooden sign should be restored or removed. The Presbyterian Church and grounds were well maintained. Cill Laobhain Football Clubhouse, wall and gates were very fresh and the School too was neat in appearance. Could Keatings be persuaded to paint their walls before next year's competition? The façade of Newbliss Engineering Work was reasonable however the doors were flaking and should be repainted.

### **Landscaping:**

The elevated landscaped area at Martins looked great! A number of planters were noted throughout Newbliss, however, planting was sporadic. Vibrant hanging baskets at the Acorn Centre were particularly admired. Attractive planters on the Cootehill road added a welcome splash of colour. Trees soften the appearance of

the main street but please take care to remove weeds. Your plan indicates that nameplates would be installed on all approach roads in 2008. Is this under way? Has your 'Adopt a flower-bed' initiative started?

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

Your ongoing work with regard to the promotion of wildlife is commendable. As mentioned previously it is important to indicate to the adjudicator which aspects of the plan have been achieved to date as it makes it much easier to allocate marks!

#### **Litter Control:**

It was refreshing to note that the proprietor of McGinns was sweeping outside his premises on the day of adjudication. Unfortunately this was the exception. There were scatterings of litter at a variety of locations throughout Newbliss, at the playground, at the empty site on the Scotshouse Road, along the Main Street and on the Cootehill Road.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

Have you agreed with Monaghan County Council on a suitable location for the recycling facilities, indeed many of your neighbouring villages have mentioned it in their applications so its arrival is eagerly anticipated!

#### **Tidiness:**

The painting of the boarded up windows on the Cootehill Road was noted and you are commended for your persistence in this regard, it makes a huge difference. Ongoing developments will no doubt add to the appearance of Newbliss on their completion. Weeds should be removed from pathways along the Main Street. Old road signs should be repaired, cleaned or removed as necessary. Property owners should be encouraged to paint galvanised roofing in traditional colours.

#### **Residential Areas:**

Many of the new development in Newbliss are finished to a high standard. One in particular was admired on the Scotshouse Road for its pretty window box. The terraced housing on the main street was for the most part fresh in appearance. Finally as mentioned earlier the Market House sets a really high standard as one approaches from Clones.

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

The Clones and Cootehill Roads are well presented. However, there is room for improvement on the Ballybay and Three Mile House Roads.

#### **General Impression:**

Newbliss is clearly undergoing changes at the moment and the completion of ongoing work will further enhance your performance in the TidyTowns Competition in the years to come. Keep up the good work!