

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Newbawn** Ref: **1222**
County: **Wexford** Mark: **200**
Category: **B** Date(s): **04/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	27
The Built Environment	50	25
Landscaping	50	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	16
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	200

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the completed application form, excellent work plan for 3 year period and sketch map of the village which was very helpful for a first timer to your village in identifying relevant places.

The day of adjudication was not one of the best days of this so called summer but one was able to note the ongoing improvements that are taking place in the village.

The committee has got a good relationship with Wexford CC and has benefited from the work of the FAS scheme person.

This is your second year in the competition, your initial year mark was comparatively low and the then adjudicator in fairness did offer explanation for same.

The initial signs of progress are encouraging and this adjudicator will endeavour to be as partial and supportive as is possible in this report.

The support of the school is important and it is good to note that you have taken steps to get the school children involved in a practical manner.

Thanks also for the historical background to the Village and also some pictorial – we will call it evidence of on going committee activity, people with good Wexford names included in the group photograph.

The Built Environment:

The standard in this category was acceptable and ongoing work highlighted in your submission was noted. The Church which is similar in architectural design to many encountered in this part of Wexford was in the throes of refurbishment during adjudication.

Foleys Pub is such a fine premises that could be so enhanced if it was subjected to a basic coat of weather shield paint of a bright colour.

The PO was well presented on the day.

The street lighting and footpath out to Beechview was very impressive – work well done and no doubt badly needed for an expanding village.

The National School was in acceptable condition although the gable brick wall was a little austere, it easy for one to say can it be revitalised by painting but that all costs money so one appreciates that this may be for another year.

The old school which has a rich history with the village is a little forlorn and one was not made aware of any plans for the future.

The Gala Shop area that also houses a barber shop was tidy with a few floral arrangements to brighten up the immediate surrounds.

As regards future developments in the village proper, as referred to in last years report, I would caution and ensure that you are aware of what may be put in place and that the essential services can cope adequately. On a personal note I like the village of Newbawn as it is a place with a traditional rural identity

Landscaping:

You have taken some major action under this category and this was noted by the adjudicator.

The Nice arrangement near the Church and graveyard was admired maybe the post and rail fencing could be painted to enhance it even more.

Tree planting is the essence of any village or town landscaping planning, some places are blessed to have natural tree proliferation other areas have to plan.

The bring bank area has been enhanced by some lovely low maintenance planting complemented by young saplings inside the fence,same comment applies to the fence as mentioned in the second paragraph.

You have made some prudent choices in identifying areas for future tree planting.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your Plans under this category are very welcome as they are both practical and more importantly achievable.

The involvement of the school children is a key element of any wildlife type initiative in communities as it gives them a sense of involvement as well as an education in the practical aspects wildlife conservation.

The idea of a herb garden near the grounds is laudable and we look for ward to seeing results maybe in a few years all going well.

Since you are at the early stages of TidyTowns I would advocate that you seek advice from the local wild life ranger on other practical projects that you can become involved in the years ahead, this can be easily incorporated into your existing plan.

Litter Control:

There was no evidence of litter in the Village or the immediate area on the day of adjudication.

Some of the planned work designated under the litter category has more to do with tidiness.

It is important that you get the main components of good litter control working in tandem.

Weekly picks are important and what you have been doing to date is paying dividends.

Keeping the message of anti litter in the minds of the local community means constant awareness campaigns such as the school poster programme.

Well done on what you have achieved to date and to keep the message of good litter control for Newbawn to the forefront at all times.

Waste Minimisation:

A few excellent initiatives undertaken since last year which is reflected in an increase in marks.

I particularly like the “rubber dams ensuring a 2 litre flush”, one that I have encountered only once to date.

Do keep up with trends in this category by consulting the Race Against Waste website and act accordingly also consult with the environment section of Wexford CC for additional advice.

Tidiness:

The standard was a bit mixed and I am not going to over concentrate on the negative but a few premises, one commercial, gates and back areas were not at the acceptable standard.

Suffice to say that as you proposed work activity document outlines that you are

Taking steps to right a few things that were noticed by the adjudicator on the day

You also have acted on recommendations n last years report and it might be fairer if more detailed judgement be reserved for next year.

You deserve a minimal increase in marks for what you have done in the last year and one looks to further improvement next year.

The adjudicator is aware that asking people to tidy up properties can be sensitive in a small tightly knit community.

Residential Areas:

Beechview residents have made a concerted effort to enhance the overall area; planting arrangements were well maintained and not over grown with good seating in place.
Some houses were in need of painting and the car parking areas needs to be re surfaced as it is a little rough although I notice that your plan states that work is ongoing!
Ard Beag was very well maintained also with some nice touches in terms of colourful planters and expansive green area.
The access to these areas has been made easier by the provision of both street lighting and excellent footpaths.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

I have to differ with last years report in saying that the quality of road surfaces was rather mixed, for instance the Campile entrance had very rough edges.
The other entrances were acceptable primarily because of the excellent name signs that have been put in place.
The actions that you have in your 3 year plan in relation to roads/streets should also contain an item to engage with the County Council to review the road surface programme for the immediate area,as Newbawn has a myriad of interlink road both directly and in indirectly in and out of the village.

General Impression:

First time visitors to Newbawn will be taken in by its rural charm and lets hope that this will not taken away by future housing developments – there should be a lull in these given the present economic situation.
The committee need to be protective of the village's uniqueness.
The Committee has worked hard within the last year in getting people interested in the Tidy town's competition and you are wished well in the years ahead.