

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Newtownmountkennedy** Ref: **515**
County: **Wicklow** Mark: **224**
Category: **C** Date(s): **12/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	32
The Built Environment	50	31
Landscaping	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	26
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	26
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	224

Overall Development Approach:

Newtownmountkennedy is welcomed to the 2008 TidyTowns Competition. Thank you for your completed entry form and map. Please provide a more detailed map with future entries, a hand drawn one will suffice. You should also consider sending in photographs of 'before' and 'after' projects have been completed as it makes it much easier to allocate additional marks. You have quite a sizable committee and are commended for your open-recruitment policy. You are still a relative new-comer to the competition and steady progress is what it's all about! It is encouraging to note that you take inspiration from you neighbours in Aughrim and perhaps one of their committee could meet with you and give some pointers in a mentoring capacity?

The Built Environment:

The Coillte Head Office was admired on the Dublin road. The Park View Hotel and adjoining units provide a new and cohesive streetscape. St. Matthews Church of Ireland looks well but some damage was noted at the boundary wall. The Doctor's, Fisher's, Mount Kennedy Inn and Toolan Bookers are all commended for their fresh, clean appearance. The new town centre development is progressing well and we look forward to its completion in the years to come. As mentioned by last years adjudicator the use of poor commercial signage seriously detracts from the town and this is unfortunate. The 1798 monument, accented by pink and white blooms provides an interesting focal point. The buildings in and around the Enterprise Centre are clean and fresh in appearance. You mention that you sent a submission to the County Council in relation to the new Local Area Plan, you should submit a copy of this with your entry as it is all part of future planning.

Landscaping:

Numerous planters were noted throughout Newtownmountkennedy and your committee are commended for the consistency of presentation. New paving and flowerbeds in the village were admired for their scarlet blooms. A triangular rose bed on the Dublin road was in full bloom as the adjudicator passed. Many

impressive hanging baskets were noted along the Main Street for their softening effect. Clearly your plans to get businesses to sponsor floral displays have been a success! The newly landscaped area opposite the Newtown Business Park looks great and we look forward to seeing its development over the coming years. Well maintained lawns interspersed with colourful planters were admired at Springfield Heights. Lengthy tracts of well maintained lawns were noted on the main approaches and the FAS workers are commended for their contribution.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The proximity of the town to such a wonderful woodland setting is fortunate. As mentioned earlier, please submit a copy of the Coillte Booklet referred to in your entry form. The Mount Kennedy 400 Woodland Walk and information board was noted.

Litter Control:

Litter control is reasonably good in Newtownmountkennedy. An outbreak was noted on the road to the Church of Ireland and another close to the seat at the Kilcoole junction.

Waste Minimisation:

It is unfortunate that your bring bank had to be removed due to development but hopefully it will be returned when a suitable site is agreed. The National School is commended on its ongoing Green Flag status. You are commended on your use of waste mushroom compost for your floral displays.

Tidiness:

Public signage should be cleaned regularly as it is often the first place a visitor looks. Broken signs should be removed or replaced. The N11 Dublin sign at the triangular flower bed could barely be read! The new paths in the village certainly add to the town. Overhead wires were still in situ on the day of adjudication.

Residential Areas:

Many of the residences in Season Park were admired. Green areas are well maintained and mature trees are a great asset to the area. Similarly, numerous village residences were admired for their fresh paintwork and pretty floral displays. Springfield heights looked well but some properties could benefit from a fresh coat of paint. Rossmore Drive is exceptional and really sets the standard!

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Poor road surfaces were noted at a number of locations on the outskirts of Newtownmountkennedy and this detracts from the town. In saying that, the main route through the town with new footpaths is fresh in appearance and markings are clear.

General Impression:

You have gained a mark here as it is clear that your committee is doing great work in enhancing the town in all aspects of the competition. The new town centre and existing vacant units hopefully will install more sympathetic signage than is the current norm in Newtownmountkennedy. Congratulations on a significant increase in marks hopefully this will keep the momentum going for many years to come!