

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Newmarket** Ref: **658**
County: **Cork(North)** Mark: **254**
Category: **C** Date(s): **04/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	41
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	31
Litter Control	50	33
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	254

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the filled out entry form. I note that you have six people involved in your committee and you hold monthly meetings and you also hold two yearly meetings with the communities, and one meeting every two months with local County Council officials. You are well supported by the IRD Duhallow, Cork County Council and the locals and businesses. It is positive to spread the word through the church newsletter and the two annual meetings are well worthwhile. Engagement with the schools provides long term benefits and I see you have yearly meetings with the boys and girls schools. Could I respectfully suggest to you that you could encourage the schools to try and obtain the green flag status. I know that teachers have plenty to in the classrooms as it is, but sometimes help is given to the teachers by a suitable person, perhaps somebody retired. The children become more aware of the benefits of looking after the local environment and the importance of composting. It is pleasing to find that your experiences of the competition are positive, and bring great community spirit. Good luck with Newmarket Summer Festival. Thank you for the map which was very helpful for the adjudicator

The Built Environment:

There is a great mix of private houses and shops and offices in Newmarket and nearly all those buildings are maintained to a high quality. It is perhaps unfair to single out some of them for special mention, but the ones that caught my eye were Sheehan's bar and also Donnacha's bar on the same street. Newmarket Co-Op Shop is very well presented. The two pharmacies looked very pleasing as did SuperValu and T D Curtin's bar. I admired the post office with the fine floral display. Ryan's food store has a beautiful shop front, and Andrew Hourigan's again impressed. The Chinese restaurant is visually striking. I admired Lenihan's fashions and Jones Shoes. The library was very tastily painted and looked splendid. The Catholic Church is very well maintained and is a fine traditional stone building, and the CYMS building is in similar condition. It is a pity to see the Protestant Church falling into such disrepair as it nestles so

peacefully in that site, conservation of this building, if possible, could be preferable to demolition. Newmarket Motors is a superb modern building and displays defining architectural qualities. AIB and Londis are well maintained structures. Centra looked great with that pretty clock. The schools looked very well and congratulations to all concerned with their upkeep. Cork County Council office is well presented and nicely landscaped. The GAA premises are great amenities for the area and in superb condition, and these premises and the pitches show what can be achieved through energy and leadership, well done to all concerned. But there are many other first class buildings in this vibrant town.

Landscaping:

There are some beautiful aspects of landscaping around the town, and I loved those trees in the big tubs. The sculpture of Sarah Curran (1782-1808) is a truly wonderful feature, with beautiful stone work and railings. The grotto has a distinctive flavour and the quality of workmanship is high on this structure with suitable hedging and ivy all around and of course the waterfall. The sculpture of Alice Taylor is a lasting testament to a very talented and famous lady. The children's playground, the sports field and tennis courts are fantastic recreational features for the young people of Newmarket, and I was most impressed with the tidiness of these areas. The "four seasons" statues give a distinctive flavour to this location. The McAuliffe coat of arms again maintains the very high standard prevalent around the town. The new lighting system erected along the wall at the amenity area is special with the cables hidden underground. The newly painted wall in the playground really freshens up the background boundary. The green area at the crossroads for Lismire was clean and fresh with a fine garden seat. I liked the beautiful hedging near the County Council offices. The old Protestant graveyard is kept in superb condition and it was great to stand beside the headstone to the late Sarah Curran

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

There is an abundance of wild life in all those magnificent trees, fields, stone walls and hedges. I loved that beautiful nature walk with the crystal clear water in the stream below is a wonderful scene to observe. There was a variety of birds singing in the trees on a sunny summer's evening. The Beara – Breifne way cycle routes and walking routes are great recreational amenities for the community and indeed visitors to Newmarket, and these routes are very well illustrated on the splendid notice board adjacent to the Sarah Curran sculpture. I notice you plan a new walk within the town area.

Litter Control:

I notice you have full time street sweeper in place from the County Council and that person is doing great work to keep the litter under control, and there was enough litter bins dispersed around the town that were well serviced. The proposed yearly clean sweep that you plan will be beneficial.

Waste Minimisation:

The bring bank at the County Council yard was fulfilling its role as I saw some people segregating material into the various bins. This area was kept clean and tidy. Could I mention again to try and get the green flag status for the schools, it is not my intention to labour this point but the benefits are rewarding. You could initiate a campaign to encourage householders to compost more of their waste.

Tidiness:

The control of weed growth on the kerbs is good and I noticed that a clean up was in progress with material left along the paths waiting for collection – well done to all concerned. I admired the new pedestrian crossing which is a valuable asset for the town, and it is good to see that the wall was painted to stop graffiti damage. It is good to see that the derelict sites were tidied up by FAS, but there are others in need of attention.

Residential Areas:

There certainly is a pride of place attitude amongst the people of Newmarket with some really beautiful private residences with magnificent displays of lawns, shrubs, trees and attractive boundary walls. The private residences blend in nicely with the town business houses. The housing estates are attractive and nicely landscaped

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Some of the roads in the town are in poor condition. The approach roads are in good condition with clear and clean road signage. On experiences a welcoming feeling on approaching the town. There are reasonable car parking facilities and I saw the works done to improve parking. There is a large volume of traffic passing through the town, and it appeared to me to be flowing smoothly.

General Impression:

This was my first visit to Newmarket and I enjoyed the experience. You are making good progress with new initiatives as well as maintaining your achievements to date. There is potential for your group to gain a higher overall mark