

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Newcestown** Ref: **687**
County: **Cork(West)** Mark: **267**
Category: **A** Date(s): **28/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	36
The Built Environment	50	38
Landscaping	50	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	38
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	19
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	37
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	267

Overall Development Approach:

Congratulations to the Newcestown Parish Development TidyTowns Association for participating in the TidyTowns Competition 2009. Thank you for your submission and for your map of the village. A hand drawn sketch of the village which highlights the places you regard as being most important for the TidyTowns Competition is a great help to the adjudicator. Does your committee have a 3-5 Year Plan? If you do not have one the exercise of compiling such a plan would enable you to set immediate and medium term targets for yourselves, would help you decide which local bodies and agencies would assist you with your various projects and from what sources funding will come from. It is clear from your submission that there have been recent improvements to Newcestown. You are aware of the challenges that lie ahead and good luck in your important work. Keep nagging at the young couple to join you in your efforts. Your submission is honest in stating that 'it takes a lot of effort to maintain standards expected'. Your achievements should help create an interest among the younger folk. Maybe your influence in the school could be used to get Mams and Dads involved with you also.

The Built Environment:

The Church announces itself from miles away and is a fine building. The cemetery is similarly attractive. The Grotto is at an important vantage point and takes full advantage because it is dutifully maintained. It is made more attractive and interesting because of the flowers and the glass case on Bishop Galvin. Keep an eye on the seats. Not only would they benefit from a coat of paint, one of them needs a new seat or the nails need a thump of a hammer. You do have some unfortunate blemishes to deal with. It is sad to come across an unfinished house as it represents unrealised hope and ambition. The GAA grounds and clubhouse are immaculate, the old parochial house seems to be a fine building, the National School of 1885 is now a fine Parish Hall. The appearance of the centre of the village is crucial to the overall impression of Newcestown.

Mahony's do their best to enhance their surroundings. The 'An Post' box gleams. The school and its environs add further to the Newcestown experience. One is impressed with the space for playing and for sport at the school. One is equally impressed to find the Pitch and Putt and one hopes that it does not suffer the same fate as the tennis courts.

Landscaping:

The village is brightened up magnificently with shrubs and summer colour. One can see the labours of your work all over the village. Well done. Is the GAA wall made more attractive by baskets? In general hanging baskets and half baskets work to benefit the general appearance. The wheel barrow is a joy. Arriving at the Béal na mBláth/Bandon junction one is treated to a visual feast of bright colours and an outdoor museum, the fruits of much planning, the result of imaginative labour and constant maintenance. The adjudicator loved the gay red and yellow which is repeated in the disused petrol pumps across the way. Why get rid of them if they are going to enhance the images across the road? The pump stands proudly painted. Paint the garage gate and complete the wonderland. The importance of good gates can be judged from the fine appearance of the Pitch and Putt gates. Much of the landscaping is the result of earlier work and, happily, looks after itself to a great extent now.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

One feels that your group needs to be more pro-active in this section of the competition. There may be people in your community who have an informed interest in wildlife and who would be willing to assist you with this section of the competition.

Litter Control:

Well done on participating in this year's Cork County Council litter league challenge. The results are obvious. Your engagement with the school is also important. The emphasis in the litter section is not just on collecting and organising clean-ups. These are important but creating awareness of litter reduction is equally important. As a next step in your fight against litter make reduction your key ambition.

Waste Minimisation:

You could encourage the school to try to achieve Green Flag Status, as was mentioned in last year's report. The pupils would learn much about recycling, reusing, reducing and composting. They would be involved in waste minimisation projects and would bring their new found skills, their new found knowledge and their new found enthusiasm home to the generations at home.

Tidiness:

The overall impression is of a tidy, cared-for village. The village has a swept, neat appearance. The village centre has a modern European Grand Platz feel to it, on a mini scale. Roads verges create a tidy look. There are not many signs about the village so ensure that they are kept clean. Keep an eye on the information board in the centre. At present it is a clutter of sheets. Good pathways not only ensure safety but also create a tidy appearance.

Residential Areas:

New, attractive houses spell hope for you rural village. They also enhance the appearance of the village. All of the housing imparts a sense of pride in Newcestown.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approaching the village by the grotto the verges are well maintained. The welcome sign is the first flavour of this village and one felt that it could look better looked after. From the GAA side one feels that one is entering the village of a community that cares about its appearance. The GAA boundary wall is most attractive but the double hedge of grisellinia and spruce add to their surroundings. The bend on this road is most attractive and the work done on the walls on the Church side is well worthwhile. Coming in from the school side the houses and the school create a lived in and cared for sensation. The Béal na mBláth approach road is also lovingly treated.

General Impression:

It was a great thrill to visit the birthplace of Bishop Edward Galvin, who was a childhood hero of the adjudicator. Therefore, the information display is most important. Maybe his birthplace deserves a more lasting memorial of some sort. The stone walls are a feature of Newcestown and the maintenance and renewal of these is very worthwhile. They bring definition to their surroundings. The Pitch and Putt course is a most attractive amenity, rarely found in rural villages.