

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Newbawn** Ref: **1222**
County: **Wexford** Mark: **205**
Category: **A** Date(s): **25/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	27
The Built Environment	50	25
Landscaping	50	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	16
Litter Control	50	31
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	205

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to the 2009 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission, which included a completed application form together with a clear outline of this year's work programme nicely illustrated with photographs. The map submitted was concise and clear and of great assistance to the adjudicator on the day of his visit. The adjudicator notes that the committee has liaised with FÁS and the engineer of Wexford County Council in order to progress a number of issues relating to your area. Congratulations on your achievement in obtaining the Endeavour Award! We would encourage the committee to further engage with Wexford County Council with a view to producing a three year village enhancement plan.

The Built Environment:

Foley's Pub is an important corner building that frames the village in this location. Opposite, the recently refurbished Church is an imposing structure and stands on magnificently imposing grounds where the centrepiece is a wonderfully mature chestnut tree. The Post Office has a lovely small scale village ambience and is surrounded by a number of particularly attractive residences. The National School is nicely located in the village centre and its grounds are enhanced by a line of semi-mature trees. Opposite, the planted embankment and well kept grass margin were admired. Your comments on the old school were noted and it is to be hoped that a new use will be found for this building in time.

Landscaping:

As outlined in your report, a considerable amount of incidental planting and landscaping enhancements have been carried out in the past year. The laurel hedging and beech planting at Beechview Estate is a fine addition to this estate as is the hedge planting at the burial ground.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The committee already liaises with the local school in relation to litter control and you have also mentioned that you hope to discuss the creation of a wild life panel with the help of the school. As a rural village, Newbawn is rich in natural wildlife, green areas and habitats and encouraging the school to undertake local wildlife surveys would be a good way of raising awareness of environmental issues amongst the local community.

Litter Control:

The efforts of the committee are obviously paying dividends as the village was generally litter free on the day of adjudication. A small amount of litter was noted by the entrance gates at the sports ground. The continued liaison with the local school is very heartening, as this is probably the best way of continuing the high standard of awareness in the community of the widespread problem of litter.

Waste Minimisation:

The Recycling Centre is well located at the car park near the burial ground and is well presented being neat and tidy on the day of adjudication. It is good to see that the school has become actively involved in this programme and the fenced compost areas are noted. It is to be hoped that this programme will be developed in the coming years and that more initiatives from the Race Against Waste website will be adopted in the future.

Tidiness:

Last year's adjudicator made a number of recommendations regarding tidiness particularly two areas where screening was required. Otherwise it is good to see that the committee are actively working on the problems remaining under this heading.

Residential Areas:

Individual residences throughout the village are generally to a very high standard and well presented and a feature of many of these are the magnificent boundary hedgerows. The relatively new scheme of Ard Beag has an interesting layout with a very generous amount of open space. The grassed areas were neatly mown and a number of private gardens were admired here. The entrance area is nicely presented but would benefit from additional tree planting to provide more enclosure at the arrival point. A feature of the scheme is the retention of the existing attractive fence along the Wellington Road boundary providing the scheme with a great sense of maturity. Beech View estate is now wonderfully mature and the sloping green area was very nicely presented and the stone wall, trees and shrubs here look very well. The pedestrian walkway across Philip's Lane is a lovely feature and the ornate bedding plants here produce a mass of colour along the lane. The overall appearance is enhanced by the nicely presented village pump.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The adjudicator notes that a large number of stands for new road signs have been erected in various locations throughout the village and looks forward to their completion. Newbawn has a range of attractive approach roads lined with stone walls, strands of wildflowers and mature vegetation and generally these are well presented.

General Impression:

Newbawn is a charming village in a wonderful location and the commitment of the newly formed Tidy Towns committee is proving a great asset. We wish you well in your future plans.