

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Newtownmountkennedy** Ref: **515**
County: **Wicklow** Mark: **233**
Category: **C** Date(s): **24/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	34
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	27
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	26
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	233

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the comprehensive application with photos (including before and after), map and plans for 2009/2010. For next year, you could try to put together a 3 to 5 year plan with timescales and lead partners and indicative costs of projects, where possible.

The committee is well organised, has realistic plans and meets weekly. The 12 committee members would appear to be committed and are doing plenty of work, along with the residents associations. There is a clear vision of where you want to get to. The TidyTowns have purposely positioned themselves at the heart of the community. Good links exist with the GAS, residents associations, Fas, Gardai, schools, Coillte, Wicklow County Council and Councillors. The adjudication report summary shows that Newtownmountkennedy is making steady progress. Good luck in the competition 2009!

The Built Environment:

The new town centre is modern but fits well into the surrounding village. Parkview Hotel is classy and doesn't intrude on the village character but adds to it by modernising. Clean lines and green spaces with water is very attractive. The church is immaculate and very pretty flowers on display. The GAA grounds and entrance look well. The Coillte buildings are very interesting indeed and make for a lovely entrance to the village from this side. Fishers is a lovely building, as is the old schoolhouse, and the white house on corner across the road.

Landscaping:

The village green triangle is beautifully simple, clean and fresh. Its noticed immediately on entering village,

gives it a village feel. Clean painted kerbs and good street markings set off this whole area. The bench too, giving due credit to the TidyTowns is well placed, but would need a varnish in the next year. There are nice planted beds near the bus stop. There are fabulous, co-ordinated, planters and hanging baskets throughout the village. The Newtown business park is fine, but if the green space could be reseeded it would make a difference to how it looks overall. The 1798 memorial site is well looked after and was admired.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The NeighbourWood scheme has given a boost to local recreation with the Mount Kennedy Woodland and Chapel River Killadreenan included. Could more info please be included on this with next years application, and any activities undertaken to promote it to the community or visitors?

Litter Control:

The village itself was free of litter, but there was a scattering on some back roads, particularly up by Mountainview Drive. The links with the Council and involvement in National Spring Clean were noted. Keep up the good work!

Waste Minimisation:

Well done to the school for achieving its green flag. Has there been any promotion of waste minimisation or other initiatives undertaken by the TidyTowns group? Please include more info on this aspect for next year. Perhaps there will be a seminar/ workshop in conjunction with Wicklow County Council or other agency. Perhaps there will be a survey of the community to see about consumer behaviour and purchasing practices such as long life goods over disposables, loose fruit and veg over heavily packaged items, etc. There are many ways to increase marks in this section. Advice is readily available through Race Against Waste website, environmental organisations, or local council. Any promotion of sustainable lifestyles will count for marks in this section.

Tidiness:

There are a couple of derelict sites which have been treated well so they don't detract from the village. The one across from the old schoolhouse has been cleaned up, well boarded, and Perspex covering broken windows. Elsewhere can be seen hoardings painted a fresh white.

There is a yellow building next door to Sentra unused and some pavements in front here are untidy due to broken or missing blocks.

The empty retail outlets will hopefully get occupiers in the future but in the meantime, maintenance of the fronts (which are currently in excellent condition) should be kept up. Some of the older green directional signs at junction in village (eg. For Dublin/ Bray) are missing letters and need attention. All other major signs could be clearly seen and were clean.

Residential Areas:

Springfield has nice planters on show and the estate above that is well kept. Rossmores are neat and have nice shrubs planted at entrances and also good green spaces.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The parking is well marked out and there are many new surfaces on footpaths. All are tidy. The surfaces outside the Credit Union/ Sentra are not as good as elsewhere, and disjointed but they are smooth enough

General Impression:

Newtownmountkenedy is a pleasant town to visit, with definite improvements being made year on year. There is a real sense of pride in the area and as more people come on board they should see continued success. Good luck!