

Tidy Towns Competition 2013

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Newbridge**

Ref: **369**

County: **Kildare**

Mark: **288**

Category: **G**

Date(s): **04/07/2013**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2012	Mark Awarded 2013
Overall Development Approach	50	46	46
The Built Environment	50	37	38
Landscaping	50	39	41
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	35	37
Litter Control	50	24	25
Sustainable Waste And Resource Management	20	14	14
Tidiness	30	15	15
Residential Areas	40	30	31
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	32	33
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	400	280	288

Overall Development Approach:

Newbridge is welcomed to the 2013 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your entry and copy of your three year plan. Your entry form is very detailed and the maps were very helpful to the adjudicator. Newbridge is fortunate in its location, a reasonable commuting distance from Dublin, good rail links and above all it has the river Liffey running through which gives an added attraction to this lovely town. The town celebrates 200 years and has grown in that time from a small village to a bustling town. Your committee of eight (with no mention of volunteers) are actively involved with Kildare County Council and other relevant agencies that support you with funding or other assistance to help you achieve your objectives. Your associations with the schools and businesses in Newbridge is strong which shows there is large community involvement. For Tidy Towns groups to succeed at achieving results in the competition one hundred per cent commitment is needed from the greater community. Your communication via social media, local papers and meetings is an excellent means conveying messages to the wider community. Your feedback on the competition is positive, it has developed a sense of community pride and the town has been enhanced by the objectives that you as a committee have achieved. Your commitment to the competition and the town in constantly pursuing the County Council with your proposals for enhancement is commended.

The Built Environment:

Newbridge has many historic buildings that are a spectacle of the town's streetscape. The Town Hall has been one to preserve its history means that the repairs that are being carried out to the building are essential. Saint Conleths Abbey and the Bank of Ireland which date back to the same era as the Town Hall are splendid examples of the Towns historic buildings. River Bank Restaurant on the other hand a lovely modern building adorned with colourful displays of flowers. Bord Na Mona has improved with the tree planting at the entrance. The Railway Station and New Ticket Office were visited and admired. The new building here compliments the old station. Newbridge is similar to most towns and villages visited, derelict sites are nearly the norm and the centre of the towns have not escaped. This has brought more pressure on Tidy Towns groups trying to address these issues and improve the overall appearance of the streetscape. The Tidy Towns Unit is appreciative of the work that is embarked on by committees.

Newbridge cemetery another part of the towns heritage is well maintained. St Conleths GAA grounds another important community amenity was also noted and admired. The Liffey Linear Park is a superb amenity and the committee has to be commended for the high standard of this area. Having visited many parks the Linear Park

excels. The seating, grass and trees are neat and tidy making it a pleasant area for people to relax. The houses across from the park were also admired. The many bollards added to the streetscape but the adjudicator felt that a uniformity of design and type preferably stainless steel was desirable. There should also be some policy on shop front design that new owners would have to comply with. The adjudicator felt that further tree planting along Main Street would form an avenue of trees and when matured would alleviate your apparent lop-sidedness.

Landscaping:

Newbridge in bloom and it certainly was. The town was a spectacle of new planters, hanging baskets and landscaped beds. The use of trees, hedging and plants that provide all year round colour is recommended by the Tidy Towns Unit. The addition of summer bedding really brings the town to life. With regard to bedding plants do the Tidy Towns committee have tunnels where they grow their own or are they purchased locally? It is important to support local nurseries where possible.

Other nice areas of landscaping noted was Moorfield Cross, Woodies and Athgarvan road all well presented with green areas, trees and planting. The Tidy Towns acknowledge the work that the Kare Volunteers do in helping to maintain Newbridge in Bloom. The Water tower site was greatly improved by the planters of flowers that adorned this area. It certainly distracts from the untidy site.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The town is fortunate to have so many areas of natural habitat for wildlife and so many amenity areas that the entire community can enjoy. The Liffey linear Park has everything to offer. The planting of white and blackthorn hedging, and the wildflower area all running close by the Ryston Social Club was admired. The results of the Biodiversity Study will make welcome reading. Hopefully it will be completed for next year's competition.

Litter Control:

There is a good Management Plan in place in the town and this helps in creating anti-litter awareness among the community. You have a national clean up in the spring and regular litter picks during the year which the schools partake in. In some towns they have an adopt a road or estate, where residents as volunteers keep the area free from litter and this helps the Tidy Towns committees and also gets the community involved. The Town is fortunate to have the County Councils support with daily cleaning on Main Street, as some towns are not as fortunate due to cut backs. On day of adjudication some litter was noted at the back of the Town Hall and at the Water Tower.

Sustainable Waste And Resource Management:

This category has caused problems for groups in the past. This year the guidelines from the Tidy Towns offer good assistance to groups on the whole area of waste management. The top of the pyramid reducing waste is what groups are encouraged to concentrate on along with reusing and recycling. Carrying out a survey with households and businesses on the type of waste produced in the town will help in identifying areas where waste can be reduced. Resource Management over the areas of energy, water and transport can provide savings to the community as well as reducing if managed successfully.

Tidiness:

The town has some areas of untidiness, nothing too major but they still distract from the overall appearance. Weed growth at kerbs gives an untidy appearance. A Poster hanging on the bridge at shopping centre takes from the Bridge and looks untidy. At Moorfield Park there was some lovely landscaping but a rusty B&B Pole spoils the effect, also in this area there was a signless pole.

Graffiti was also noticed on signs; the invalid sign at Linear Park was one area. The recycling centre was also a little untidy.

For a town the size of Newbridge there is a large area to monitor but there is nothing too major that your committee will not be able to address and when achieved will help greatly with the tidiness of Newbridge. The Town Hall project when completed will tidy this part of Main Street. You are wished well with your determination to have overhead cabling removed from Main Street.

Residential Areas:

The Towns residents association play an important role in the maintenance and presentation of their areas with the assistance of Kildare County Council and the Tidy Towns Committee. This role is also highlighted with the estates awards that encourages and rewards the residents for their on-going work. The work the residents do in the estates also helps the Tidy Towns committee prepare the town for the National Competition. Some estates were visited and admired. The areas had nice entrances well maintained grass and landscaping. Many private residences throughout the town were admired. The neat gardens, window boxes and hanging baskets bring lovely colour to the streetscape. It shows a community that has pride in their area and town. Well done to all in this category.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads to Newbridge were admired. The splendid roundabout on Curragh approach road was noted. You are fortunate to have Horse Racing Ireland and the Stud Farms help with the maintenance on the

approach roads and roundabouts. The verges were well maintained and hedges looked well. Some signs were hidden by encroaching foliage. On the Kildare road do ensure foliage is cut back and signs are visible. The Bridge across the Liffey provides a splendid approach to the town and the lovely planting brought colour to the grey stone of the bridge. The poster on the bridge as previously stated was not attractive. There are some lovely stone areas such as Bord Na Mona and the Barracks Arch and wall. Their sound structural state was noted and it is hoped that this can be continued into the future. Bollards were also admired but a more uniformity of design would be desirable. Nameplates on approach roads need to be upgraded. Do ensure bi-lingual signage when erecting new ones. The containers at Newbridge Silverware were not admired. No need for such obtrusive containers to be used for advertising purposes.

General Impression:

Newbridge is an attractive town to visit. Newbridge in bloom it certainly is with the many colourful containers of blooms throughout the town. The Liffey Linear Park is an absolute gem and a much admired amenity. The town has great potential to progress in the competition. A lot of the work that you are hoping to complete needs the County Councils assistance which is hoped will be forthcoming. The adjudicators visit to the town was enjoyed. Thank you for your participation in the competition and continued success in the future.