

Tidy Towns Competition 2012

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Newbridge** Ref: **184**
County: **Galway** Mark: **180**
Category: **A** Date(s): **12/06/2012**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2011	Mark Awarded 2012
Overall Development Approach	50	0	25
The Built Environment	50	0	27
Landscaping	50	0	21
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	0	12
Litter Control	50	0	29
Tidiness	30	0	15
Waste Minimisation	20	0	0
Residential Areas	40	0	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	0	24
General Impression	10	0	6
TOTAL MARK	400	0	180

Overall Development Approach:

Your adjudicator would like to welcome Newbridge back to the 2012 TidyTowns Competition and your participation is important to the competition. Your last entry was in 2005 and Newbridge is a welcome entrant this year. Thank you for the entry form. It is important to remember that under each adjudication category you detail all new works in the past year for that category. You did not mention the County Council and do you have support from them? Do consider the preparation of a 3 Year TidyTowns Plan that will guide your work from year to year. It is important to detail the year in which each project will be implemented together with the likely supporting groups of agencies. The Plan can be prepared by your Committee. Have you considered using email and text to spread the word in the Newbridge of your work for TidyTowns?

The Built Environment:

The refurbished Hall looks extremely well and the painting is really effective. Weed growth in the car park needs attention. The bar is most interesting in that it was the old Jail in the 1800s. Have you considered an information plaque? Excellent presentation was admired at the Catholic Church. What appeared to be Funeral Home beside the Church also stood out for good presentation. At Cuninghams the hand lettered signage stands out and this has been well executed while nearby at The Shivin Inn a good colour choice adds to the overall visual effect. The use of the Irish language on signage is required under present legislation and this should be encouraged where appropriate. On signage the Irish language must have the primary role.

Landscaping:

Your adjudicator reminds the TidyTowns Committee that the cutting of roadside banks and ditches in the period 1st March to 30th August is not permitted under Section 40 of the Wildlife Act 1976, incorporating section 46 of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000. Flower beds in the village were examined and these add to

the overall presentation. In the car park opposite the Church the flower beds in the corners have become overgrown with weeds and need urgent maintenance. On the Ballygar approach road the two barrels on the left need to be treated. Have you considered planting some native Irish trees on the Ballygar approach on the left where the stone village sign is located? Do however get expert advice on the best native species for this location. Your entry advises that you are planning hanging baskets throughout the village. Do make sure that this is not over done. Quite often just a few baskets can make a positive difference.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

For next year do provide details of the Nature Walk. What happened about the wildlife poster mentioned in last year's adjudicator's report? As suggested last year a weather proof panel would be a better approach to adopt rather than the poster. Do consider the preparation of a simple and basic wildlife survey of the village and the County Council may be able to advise. There are various Irish websites than will also be helpful including that of An Taisce.

Litter Control:

The plans for new litter bins have been noted but do make sure that they can be emptied on a regular basis. Initially the Bring Centre looked quite tidy but a dumped bag of rubbish detracted from the overall impact of this important facility. Some litter was evident at the Hall car park.

Tidiness:

In cooperation with the Local Engineer consider the painting of all sign poles matt black. At the bridge weed growth needs attention and weed was also evident at the stone wall on the village side of the bridge. Very bad weed growth in the Church car park and along the roadside wall of the car park detracts from this area. Weed growth at some of the roadside kerbing was also evident. Opposite the car park the pile of gravel by the stone wall should be removed.

Waste Minimisation:

This category is about the reduction of waste in Newbridge on an annual basis. What is happening in the Church and the Hall about the use of low energy light bulbs? The same could be asked of the commercial outlets in the village. The recycling measures at the National School are commended. Do try and get involved with the School as this is most important in TidyTowns terms.

Residential Areas:

The few houses in Newbridge were found to be well presented. Thankfully the village has not suffered from estate development that has over powered many small villages like yours.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

On the Ballygar approach the verges needed to be cut. On the Athlone approach the narrow verge and the grass strip by the footpath needed to be cut. The stone village sign on the Galway approach was obscured by growth.

General Impression:

It is great to have Newbridge back in the Competition and good luck in the year ahead when we look forward to returning to Newbridge.