

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **NEWTOWNCASHEL**
County : **LONGFORD**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 27-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	43
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23
Landscaping	40	33
The Built Environment	40	31
Litter Control	40	35
Tidiness	20	15
Residential Areas	30	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	300	239

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Your submission including the entry form was the best encountered by this adjudicator this year. It is always pleasing to receive typed material and your three dimensional map was beautifully drawn and coloured with an extraordinary level of accuracy. The community of Newtowncashel are to be congratulated for their on going high standards for many years and the determination to make further improvements as read in your letter outlining 5 projects for commencement at the latter part of this year. You clearly have good relationships with the statutory bodies and other local organisations.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The natural manner in which Newtowncashel is presented, being merely part of the undulating pastoral countryside in which it is set is most conducive to wildlife. It is most commendable that you are negotiating with local farmers in respect of the cleaning and maintenance of water courses, also that you encourage the preservation of hedgerows and trees. Needless to say however it is important that hedges be cut out of the nesting season. You may consider, when developing the quarry, how a wildlife theme might be incorporated.

LANDSCAPING

All the mature amenity areas were presented to their usual high standard. Your subtle use of bedding plants is admirable. The natural environment is so beautiful that there is no need to clutter it with a plethora of exotic flower displays - a mistake often made by many towns and villages. Development of the quarry is looked forward to.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The school garden is maturing wonderfully. The Heritage Centre was completely faultless in its presentation. The Hall was again neatly presented. J. Hopkins has a fine frontage although in need of maintenance. Grass at the Health Centre was (oddly for Newtowncashel!) very overgrown. Mike Conway's Bar looked well. Some freshening up of M. Flynn's will be required before next year. The Post Office is most picturesque. Work was in progress on the tower of the Church during adjudication. Several out buildings need improvement and should be on your priority list for attention. It is commendable that you are taking note of the requirements of wheelchair users.

LITTER CONTROL

No litter was noted during adjudication, a standard which is now synonymous with Newtowncashel. Congratulations! A little debris was evident in some yards however.

TIDINESS

As previously mentioned a small number of untidy yards and outbuildings do exist. There was no flyposting to be seen. Weed growth was non-existent at kerbsides and at the base of buildings and walls. Kerbside sweeping was in progress during adjudication.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Apart from a small number of marginally shabby boundaries including gates the general standard of residential properties was exceptional. It is a pity that the gardens of the properties in the vicinity of J. Hopkins's are not being maintained.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

As usual the grass verges well out of the villages on all roads had been meticulously maintained. Also, all stone walls were in good condition. The bright painting of gates is always admired. It is recommended that the, albeit well painted, white timber fencing at the Cornahough junction on the Longford approach be replaced with a hedge or stone wall. Incidentally the flower display here was most effective. Some work to the stone wall at the entrance to the park was being carried out during adjudication. The placing of ESB cables underground and erection of new lamp standards is looked forward to. Please do take care however that the lamp standards are appropriate to the natural simplicity of the village; ornate Victorian types as seen in villages elsewhere would be inappropriate. Similarly it is hoped that the resurfacing of paths will not entail the use of brick paviers.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Newtowncashel is an idyllic village where all the disperse elements are beautifully integrated.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (14/08/96)

There is clearly a deep commitment by the entire community to the development of Newtowncashel. Again this year it can be noted that the Lotto sign on the M. Flynn premises might be replaced with the newer more slimline type of Lotto sign. The recommendation made by the first adjudicator regarding incorporating a wildlife theme into the proposed recreational development at the quarry is endorsed by this adjudicator. Flower displays in full bloom were magnificent and the young trees are maturing nicely. It was good to note that the ground of the Health Centre premises had been neatly trimmed in time for second adjudication. Litter control was excellent as was overall tidiness. Approach roads are presented to the standard we've come to expect of Newtowncashel. Footpaths are weed free and street furniture is well painted. All that remains now is to work on the elimination of some services poles, such as the one on the garden development in the centre of the village and those at the entrance to the village from the Barley Harbour Road. Overall, Newtowncashel is a village where time always seems to stand still in order to enjoy the pleasures of nature and the beauty of the man - made environment.