

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 14-07-99

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	44	44
The Built Environment	40	33	32
Landscaping	40	35	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	23
Litter Control	40	35	35
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	34	33
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	252	248

Newtowncashel, County Longford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your comments, the wonderful map and the information for the amenity area at the quarry. The judges are delighted that you have taken on the advice of an environmentalist in planning this amenity area and look forward to it's completion. Newtowncashel is an oasis of quiet overlooking the bogs of Longford. It is a delight to judge. At this level of the competition, detail is required in all elements. Maintenance and work is evident throughout the village and the new project of the quarry is an exciting prospect.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The buildings in Newtowncashel are well presented generally, some better than others. Hopkins, though traditional in presentation requires a facelift and repainting. Flynns shop is reasonable and Casserlys is well presented. The school is fine though the railings need repainting as does the gate beside it. The Midland Health Centre was neat in presentation; though would benefit from some colour and hanging baskets or tubs. The Heritage Centre is exceptional and the floral display set off the red and white of the cottage. A couple of hard workers were cleaning the doors down on the day of adjudication. It is unfortunate about the tea-rooms. The Garda Station looked well and the GAA Centre completed is fine except for couple of pieces of litter in the car park area which was also a bit weedy.

LANDSCAPING

The use of bog sculpture throughout the village is a unique aspect of the village and is most pleasing to the eye. The stone walls which are very much part of the village are very nice, however, do encourage certain wall plants such as toadflax as they give a softer view. There are some fine tubs used throughout the village and particularly the fuchsia tubs were admired. The landscaped area which included the water feature is well done, however a number of dead/unhappy weeping beeches need attention at the back of the area. The use of the pitted limestone is very effective in the beds opposite the Post Office. Finally, a great deal of effort has gone into putting the chains in from to the flower beds, they look well, though do not overdo them.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The plans for the quarry are very good. Although a lot of work had been carried out since last year, the quarry does not seem complete according to the plans. Be careful not to over landscape such an area. Encourage wall plants on the new

walls and consider the planting of wildflowers at the welcome sign rather than bedding plants, giving greater focus on Irish nature. There is a good mix of hedging plants used – did you know in dating hedgerows, the older the hedge the greater the number of species used?

LITTER CONTROL

The litter bins were all nicely presented and very little litter was seen except outside the GAA centre. Educate those involved not to throw litter. A poster in the club may help.

TIDINESS

Despite an estimated ten tractors passing through the village during the time the village was being adjudicated, the village was very tidy. Attention to detail is required, i.e. the removal of pruned branches looking over the wall opposite the community centre, the weedy areas in the GAA centre – some grassy areas are alright, the area just seemed excessively weedy in parts and the repainting of the tin roof beside the Midland Health centre would be helpful.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The houses are generally presented to a very high standard in the village. A cream house with roses is magnificent and the nasturtiums draped over the wall makes a great impact. A new house at the junction will look well when complete – potential new helpers/members of the committee. The railings on a house on the lower Saints Island road require repainting. There are a number of traditional type cottages in the village (e.g. opposite the new house) though many of the front doors are 1970's style. There is also a house of the Elfeet road which sports some fine red roses and this looks well. Well done to all concerned.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads in Newtowncashel were of high standard. The Ballymahon road was good with well cut margins. It is not cut as tightly as usual and is there perhaps a tendency to allow more wildflowers through at the back of the hedgerows? Both the Saints Island and Elfeet road approaches were good. Take care to keep all speed signs, directional and name signs clean i.e. the sign regarding the winning of the competition on the approach to the village.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Again attention to detail is called for to make sure everything is presented to the best standard possible. i.e. fences of houses, gate opposite telephone box and gate of Garda

Station. Your plans for the wildlife section is good. Valuable points can be picked up in this section. Emphasise the wildflower aspect and associated insect and bird life. Perhaps this could be carried out in conjunction with the school. Encourage selected wall flora as well. Well done on your work this year and good luck with the quarry project.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (03/08/99)

Even on a wet summers evening Newtowncashel looks superb. It is always a pleasure to visit your beautiful village on any occasion. Your plans for the development of the quarry are admirable, well done. We look forward to its completion. Road surfaces throughout the village are superb. Well done also on the completion of work at the church. Trees and shrubs are maturing nicely and, of course, flower displays are quite magnificent. The progress to date on the quarry is admirable and in its present state looks really well with a successful combination of wildflowers (foxglove), rocky outcrops and neatly mown grassed areas together with maturing trees and shrubs, well done! A derelict lock-up property just before the nameplate from the Longford road could be improved as a temporary measure until refurbishment.