

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Newtowncashel**

Ref: **456**

County: **Longford**

Mark: **270**

Category: **A**

Date: **01/04/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	46	46
The Built Environment	40	35	34
Landscaping	40	37	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	27	27
Litter Control	40	36	36
Tidiness	20	18	18
Residential Areas	30	26	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	36	36
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	270	268

Overall Developmental Approach:

Newtowncashel is welcome to the 2004 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission and enclosures; these are both informative and interesting. The interpretative panel for the village still remains impressive and is an excellent introduction to Newtowncashel. It is good to note that you have the continued support of the community. Well done on the church gate collection and on the sponsored nature walk.

The Built Environment:

The majority of buildings continue to be presented to a standard of excellence. The Health Centre, the Heritage Centre, Smyth's all look very well together with the church and Community Centre; Casserlys Post Office is good also. Both the Garda station and the club house are well presented. Try to ensure that the sash windows on the J. Hopkins premises are retained upon refurbishment.

Landscaping:

Well managed hedgerow, stands of mature and semi-mature trees together with saplings continue to be characteristic features of Newtowncashel; flower displays throughout the village are excellent also. Your initiative regarding the 'greening' of stone walls is appropriate and quite rightly you will not allow them to become overgrown. The entrance to the small park in the village centre was

surprising in its presentation. The chain here was broken and indeed it seemed that the park is not accessible to the public; this dramatically reduces its recreational amenity value. Well done on the continuous replacement of dead trees.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Newtowncashel is unique in the country in the manner in which celebrates its wildlife heritage one never tires of seeing your wonderful bog oak sculptures. The continuous development of the Quarry Park is impressive and we appreciate your decision regarding the pond in the light of the comments of last years adjudicator. The small interpretative panels enhances the experience of the features of the Quarry Park. Has a wildlife survey of Newtowncashel and its environs been conducted? If so we would like to have details; such details could also be provided for the wider community to enhance wildlife awareness.

Litter Control:

Litter control was excellent in Newtowncashel during adjudication! The additional litter bins appear to be doing their job. Well done to all involved in the morning litter patrol. Do keep us informed of your litter management activities throughout the year as these can be a source of additional marks.

Tidiness:

The recycling point was extremely tidy, no bags were noted here. The vacant barn type building near the "J. Hopkin's" premises might be neatly boarded up and maintained in a tidy manner as an interim measure. Do try to keep weed growth in check at the carpark of the clubhouse. One or two untidy sites near the "J. Hopkin's" premises is problematic.

Residential Areas:

Individual dwellings are presented to an excellent standard and many mature gardens have been noted which deserve praise; a rose garden in particular deserves special mention. At this stage residents are aware of the importance of maintaining their roadside boundary walls to a high standard and taking responsibility for the area immediately outside of these. Well done!

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

One immediately knows that one is approaching Newtowncashel by the presentation of grass verges and stone walls and nicely shaped field boundaries. In some instances field gates were in need of upgrading. Perhaps all could be painted a single colour, perhaps one of the colours of the village might be chosen. The derelict machinery both beside the Quarry Park and in the old quarry are visually interesting; could they be used in some way to good effect in your presentation. One or two road signs were in need of refurbishing, however most street furniture was well presented. An excellent presentation.

General Impression:

One continues to be impressed by your beautiful village and Newtowncashel is one of the very best villages in the country. We look forward to many repeat visits. Thank you for your continued participation and dedication to the environment.

Second Round Adjudication:

The grassy banks of the Longford approach road were well maintained on the day. A curved tin roof to an outbuilding on this side of the village should be repainted in its traditional red colour before next year's competition. The marvellous bog oak sculptures of birds throughout the village were

particularly admired-including that incorporating a fountain at the village centre! Quarry Park was well maintained but the area adjacent appeared somewhat neglected. There was evidence of Christmas decorations still up on some properties which looked unfortunate. J. Hopkins is a marvellous traditional shopfront which would benefit from a sensitive restoration to its former glory. The magnificent displays of nasturtiums and montbretia on approach roads were greatly admired. The beautifully drafted 3-dimensional map proved most useful on the day. In relation to your worries about the frogs, this adjudicator would suggest that as they are an endangered species, they must be protected. Perhaps consult ENFO in this regard.