

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Newtowncashel**

Ref: **252**

County: **Longford**

Mark: **273**

Category: **A**

Date: **11/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	46	46
The Built Environment	40	36	35
Landscaping	40	37	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	27	27
Litter Control	40	37	36
Tidiness	20	18	18
Residential Areas	30	26	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	37	36
General Impression	10	9	9
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>270</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Newtowncashel is welcome to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Competition. Congratulations on your success of last year and on your new nameplate and board announcing your Silver Medal status. Well done on your sponsored nature walk and church gate collection. The Christmas Card Competition is an excellent idea also, we would love to see the results. The reflection of your wildlife heritage in sculpture is one of the best seen anywhere in the country by this adjudicator. Thank you for details of your 2005-2008 plan, we look forward to the completion of the Giant's Table and Chair.

### The Built Environment:

Smyths looked well this year and both the Parochial House and the Community Hall enjoyed an excellence in presentation also. The stone work of the church is really magnificent. Well done also on the presentation of the Garda station and the clubhouse and its carpark. The traditional features of the John Hopkins building, (the sash windows and the half door) will hopefully be retained upon refurbishment. Flynns shop is beginning to look a little weather stained.

### Landscaping:

The park continues to be well presented, however one of the barriers which had been knocked was left lying and should be removed if it is no longer needed. Casserlys Post Office continues to be

beautifully presented with colourful and profuse flower displays as has been the case for many years now. We note your greening of stone walls activities and are supportive of this. Container shrubs in the carpark of Smyths pub appear not to be too healthy and the barrels here are in need of refurbishment. All of your green areas are being beautifully maintained and trees of various ages together with mature shrubberies and lots of flower displays are a feature of Newtowncashel, well done.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The montebretia looked wonderful against the grey of the stone wall and even though they were not in flower one can only imagine how they look in August. Nastertia were beautiful also and Oxeye Daisies were eye-catching. The small interpretive panel at Ballyreevagh Quarry explaining the name was interesting. Sculpture and wildlife here are wonderful and we note your plans for additional stone work for the future. We look forward to the installation of the pump to give the falling water effect and to getting the results of the proposed wildlife survey for the village and its environs.

### **Litter Control:**

Litter control was excellent again this year, well done. We note your morning litter patrol. We wish the school well in achieving Green Flag status. All litter bins were being nicely maintained.

### **Tidiness:**

Well done on the Bring Centre, it was neatly presented. Some stone was being stored to the side yard and rear of the stone building beside Flynns. It is anticipated that this will be removed upon completion of building works. A site on entering from the Ballymahon / Longford junction located beside the J. Hopkins premises looked a little untidy as did some rear areas. Newtowncashel continues to have a tidy aspect overall and has scored well yet again under this heading.

### **Residential Areas:**

The majority of householders present their premises and their curtilage areas to a high standard and, again this year, gardens have been impressive. We note the addition of two dwellings located beside the Heritage Centre. At the time of first adjudication there was not a boundary wall in place and gardens had yet to be developed so these sites are still a work in progress. There is no doubt that, upon completion, these will be presented to the same excellent standard that is enjoyed for other dwellings in Newtowncashel.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Road surfaces are good throughout the village and on entrances. Footpaths are generally well presented also, however some weed growth was prevalent along kerbs but it was not problematic. Fingerpost road signs and nameplates are generally well presented as are other items of street furniture. We note with interest your Vintage Agricultural Machinery Restoration Project.

### **General Impression:**

Congratulations on another excellent presentation. Newtowncashel continues to be one of the most beautiful villages anywhere in the country and the community have every right to feel proud of their achievements.

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

A truly magnificent performance throughout the village. This adjudicator was making a first visit since 1980 and happily you have retained and enhanced the plethora of attractions and

developments since. The most striking feature was the absence of litter in all areas under adjudication: the sheer neatness of the approach roads, the high quality presentation of your buildings and the wonderful sustained landscaping of recent years. Don't overdo the sculpture or you may lessen the effect of its impact. J. Higgins will deteriorate further if it does not receive attention: it is on a prominent location on the approach road. The Quarry Park is a gem, full of interesting illustrations and a fitting tribute to those who toiled there down through the generations. You have also 'escaped' the impact of overwhelming housing estates and for this you may be grateful. A delight to visit Newtowncashel after so many years.