

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Newtowncashel** Ref: **485**  
County: **Longford** Mark: **298**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **28/06/2008**  
**24/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	47
The Built Environment	50	37
Landscaping	50	40
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	30
Litter Control	50	38
Waste Minimisation	20	11
Tidiness	30	20
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	38
General Impression	10	9
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>298</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Newtowncashel is welcome to the to the National TidyTowns Competition in its 50th Anniversary year. Thank you for your submission and enclosures. It is good to note the number of committee meetings every year and of course the involvement of the entire community including volunteers. Your liaison with a variety of statutory bodies is paying dividends as is of course year newsletters and other communication initiatives. Well done on the refurbishment of the relief map of the village since last year and also on your interpretive panel.

### **The Built Environment:**

The Garda station was fresh in appearance and of course the stone church continues to look magnificent; the new stone building behind Fallon's looks interesting also. We note that your Heritage Centre is to be developed as a private dwelling. Hopefully the Hopkins premises will have its traditional features retained when it is refurbished. The safety railing and piers which have been installed at the GAA grounds are acknowledged . We wish you well with projects planned under this heading.

### **Landscaping:**

Flower and other plants displayed in containers throughout the village were a visual treat at the time of adjudication. Existing flower and shrub beds together with hedgerow and green open spaces are being maintained to a standard of excellence. Hopefully the 80 trees planted at Quarry Park will survive to maturity. One can only imagine the spring colour to be provided by the daffodils which were planted last year together with the pansies. We wish you every success in your plan for a year-round effect with shrubs and flowers, do keep us informed.

**Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

Hopefully the clearing earlier this year at Quarry Park will produce the desired result and provide the right conditions for native species. Ox-eye daisies and Montebretia are used to good effect along the roadside and make for a charming introduction to your lovely village, Firethorn was admired also. Well done on the Diarmuid and Grainne trail also not to mention the stone carving and thank you for the photograph. We look forward to the completion of the new sculpture in Quarry Park.

**Litter Control:**

Litter control was excellent and the children and other volunteers are to be thanked for their involvement. The dawn patrol together with regular emptying of litter bins is having the desired effect. We wish you every success with the acquisition of litter free signs and bins.

**Waste Minimisation:**

It is good to note the installation of compost bins in addition to the recycling point. Well done to the school also for their participation in the Green Schools Programme. Your segregation of litter is noted. Good luck with the proposed installation of a notice at Barley Harbour regarding the location of your recycling point.

**Tidiness:**

Your work on maintaining the village free of weeds in inappropriate places is acknowledged and it is good to note that you use environmentally friendly weedkiller. Congratulations on having funding in place for the ducting of overhead service cables. Well done also on having excessive signage and the visual clutter caused rectified. An untidy curtilage to a dwelling at the top of the road to the school is problematic

**Residential Areas:**

The new dwelling? Beside the old Heritage Centre is of has an unusual design and looks well. Hopefully the town house development located behind Fallon's will enhance existing buildings within the village. An undeveloped garden to a new dwelling near the Quarry will no doubt be finished to a high standard. Existing residential units within the village are being nicely maintained and many gardens were admired.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Your field boundaries on approach roads which are part stone and part turf were very much admired and are being maintained to an excellent standard. The car-park located opposite Fallon's is nicely maintained also and indeed stone walls throughout Newtowncashel are an attractive feature. A road sign on one verge was still toppled over since last year. We wish you well with your future projects regarding road signs and markings and hopefully the LEADER programme when announced will bring good news for you regarding ducting.

**General Impression:**

Newtowncashel always looks well and it is hard to believe that there is actually a litter problem caused by visitors to Lough Ree at Barley Harbour as a village always looks perfect. The Community is to be commended for their work in this respect.

**Second Round Adjudication:**

The approach roads to Newtowncashel are beautifully lined with hedgerows and stone walls and these are wonderful features for the town. The lovely sculptures and welcome signs were notes on the way into town from Lanesborough. While some colourful planting was admired in the village centre, e.g. at the Garda station, it is felt that additional landscaping would add to the overall appearance. The green area beside Casserly's would be a good candidate for brightening up. The village was litter free on the 2nd day of adjudication. A new footpath was noted to be under construction and this will greatly add to the already tidy appearance. The GAA ground look well. The disused quarry beside it is potentially a good wildlife site. If possible why not get the local National Parks and Wildlife Service ranger to look at it and suggest enhancement measures.