

# Tidy Towns Competition 2018

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Newtowncashel** Ref: **485**  
County: **Longford** Mark: **325**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **23/06/2018**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2017	Mark Awarded 2018
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	46	48
Streetscape & Public Places	50	41	42
Green Spaces and Landscaping	50	45	46
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	35	35
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	16	17
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	62	62
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	32	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	43	43
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>325</b>

### Community – Your Planning and Involvement / An Pobal - Pleanáil agus Rannpháirtíocht:

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Baile Nua An Chaisil chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2018 agus chuig Ceiliúradh 60 Bliain an Chomórtais. Thank you for your submission with artistic map (as always) and your ambitious plan for Newtown Cashel, we wish you every success in it's implementation. Thank you also for the support documentation and photographs and in particular the letter of permission allowing the adjudicator to enter the school grounds. The movement of Heber Donn to his new 'home' at the entrance to Quarry Park must indeed have been quite a feat utilising all available hands on board; well done to all involved! Newtown Cashel has a proud record of achievement in the Tidy Towns Competition and the committee continue to network successfully with the wider community and statutory bodies. The involvement of the school children will no doubt ensure the continued participation of Newtown Cashel in Tidy Towns for another 40 years! It is satisfying to note the benefits accrued to the community from participation to date.

### Streetscape & Public Places / Sráid-Dreach & Áiteanna Poiblí:

Business premises enjoy good maintenance and an attractive presentation. Public buildings look well too with an excellent presentation achieved for the 'The Hill', (community hall) hopefully the refurbishment of the old Garda Barracks will be as successful. Both the school and the church building and grounds were admired. The provision of the new flag poles and fencing at the school was noted. The Heritage Quarry appeared to be closed off at the time of adjudication and the one closest to the village (Quarry Park) appeared to be a work in progress. Street furniture is being nicely maintained. The overall appearance of the built environment of Newtown Cashel is nicely complemented by floral displays and bog oak sculpture, a very successful combination. An accessibility audit of the village should be undertaken.

### Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

All green areas looked superb in their maintenance and were beautifully complemented by stands of trees in every stage of maturation. Container flower displays are colourful and profuse and strategically placed for maximum visual impact; growing your own plants from seedlings in a committee members polytunnel is a fine achievement. There is a heavy reliance on Montebrecia which is an invasive species (although naturalised) so it is advisable not to plant it further. Aim for native species where possible in future landscaping with an emphasis on pollinator friendly plants. Commiserations on the storm damage to trees caused by Storm Emma, it is heart breaking to lose healthy mature trees!

### Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality / An Dúlra agus an Bhithéagsúlacht i do cheantar:

Commendations are due to committee members that attended the Bord Na Mona Biodiversity Action Plan 2016-2021 earlier in the year, no doubt this will be of long term benefit to the community in the management of wildlife in Newtown Cashel. Well done to the FAS workers on the construction and installation of bird and Swift boxes in the Quarry. Participation by the farming community in the GLAS Scheme is a welcome development. We anticipate future visits to the Old Quarry Community Park and Sculpture Park, it seemed not to be accessible to this year's adjudicator. Is the Adventure Sports children's playground complete or a work in progress? The GAA clubhouse, grounds and natural stone walls enjoy a good presentation.

#### **Sustainability – Doing more with less / Inmharthanacht - Mórán ar an mbeagán:**

The recycling point enjoys good maintenance and the installation of the CCTV at the site will ensure that this standard continues into the future. The reuse of old newspapers to make heat briquettes is creative as is the use of shredded paper for packaging and postage and 'bag upcycling', well done on these undertakings! The 'vacant houses within the parish' initiative and liaison with Rural Resettlement Ireland in this respect will hopefully be fruitful and achieve its goal for the community. Congratulations to the school children on achieving their 6th Green Flag and of course on their vegetable garden initiative. Do try to take on projects that make savings in water, energy and transport management and efficiencies and try to quantify results against which to measure your progress.

#### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

The Dawn Litter Patrol and continued vigilance throughout the day has achieved its goal as Newtown Cashel was free of litter and dumping during adjudication; weed control was excellent also. Street furniture looked well and the absence of overhead service cables coupled with street lighting on attractive lamp-standards has been favourably noted. Provide information on the type and source of litter and waste in the village and if it is increasing or decreasing in the light of your strategies, such information can attract additional marks also. No doubt collected litter is segregated for recycling.

#### **Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:**

The standard of presentation under this heading continues to be strong with private dwellings of all types looking attractive. Hopefully the two vacant residential properties will be reoccupied in the not too distant future now that a connection has been established with the Rural Resettlement Scheme. Indeed, Newtown Cashel appears to be an attractive place to live!

#### **Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:**

All roads into Newtown Cashel are beautifully presented with handsome old stone walls, well maintained grass margins, and beautiful floral displays. Road markings are clear and road signage clean, legible and properly aligned. Consideration might be given to revealing more of the old natural stone wall between the speed limit signs and the name plate on the Barley Harbour approach and entrance as it could be a handsome feature of this approach road. As noted above there is an over reliance on Montebrecia and some native alternative species might be considered to good effect.

#### **Concluding Remarks:**

As always Newtown Cashel was a pleasure to adjudicate; its old stone walls, bog oak sculpture and well maintained buildings complemented by colourful flower displays all work together to achieve high visual amenity for the village.