

# Tidy Towns Competition 2025

## Adjudication Report

Centre: <b>Newtowncashel - Baile Nua an Chaisil</b>	Ref: <b>485</b>
County: <b>Longford</b>	Mark: <b>382</b>
Category: <b>A</b>	Date(s): <b>16/07/2025</b>

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2024</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2025</b>
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	52	53
Streetscape & Public Places	80	51	53
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	52	53
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	38	39
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	25	27
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	68	70
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	38	39
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	47	48
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>382</b>

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

Fáilte chuig Comórtas Bhailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2025. Go raibh maith agaibh as bhur iarratas a chur isteach. Maith sibh don obair atá déanta agaibh in bhur cheantar go dtí seo - guímid gach rath oraibh i bhur dtionscadail amach anseo. Ádh mór.

Newtowncashel Tidy Towns CLG has been entering the Tidy Towns competition for the past 48 years and you are very welcome to participate in this years 2025 Supervalu Tidy Towns Competition. Your pretty village is in an idyllic lush green setting in which there are nice historic buildings and stone walls.

With four members and eight volunteers you concentrate your efforts around the village setting. You have informed us that you have lost committee members as a result of COVID-19 and other events. People can sometimes be hesitant to join a committee but are willing to join a team when asked? The effort you put into staying organised really shows—in the way you work together as a team, do regular clean-ups, and get involved in different projects where everyone pitches in.

You communicate very well within and outside your community via word of mouth, newsletters and social media like the Parish Facebook and What's App medium. You liaise with your local council and other bodies and other businesses within the district for support. Your project in the quarry is a major achievement and attraction to and for your village. Thank you for your map which is easy to follow and to read, also the accompanying notes which make very interesting reading. Your submission was printed in yellow which makes it very difficult to interpret and read, for future submissions may we suggest you use a different font and colour. You may look at developing a three -year plan, as a guide, going forward for each of the Tidy Towns Categories. In this you may also look at extending your volunteer base with other organisations within the community to aid with your Tidy Towns efforts.

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

On arrival into Newtowncashel, one is inspired by the beautiful stonework, sourced locally that adorns the many stone walls and buildings in the community. The Church has a three-bay elevation with gothic features and a slate pitch roof. It is an attractive building of the mid nineteenth century and it is well kept and landscaped.

As like many villages within and around the country it is sad to see the loss of vital services such as a Post Office, two fine shops, a local pub and Health Centre. However, through your local community and with the respected owners they are well conserved for the present and in good condition. This is encouraging as in many villages, as adjudicators, we witness derelict and near derelict buildings. It is encouraging to see the once purposeful buildings in your community maintained to a good standard.

There are many interesting sculptures In the village, The fountain with the mischievous striking heron statue perched on the fountain in the lovely seated area, is an ideal place to sit and relax to the sound of flowing water.

The planters here are attractive but lack scent, you may look at planting scented perennials into this location in future years. There are a few nice sculptures of birds and peacocks scattered in beds around the village enhancing the areas they are situated in.

The Quarry is an awesome experience, with its natural and beautiful stone carved statues and features. You are fortunate to have acquired such a property. Under your guidance, it is well managed and cared for with descriptive signage of the geological, natural and sculptured characters that adorn it. The stonebreaker is a wonderful piece of engineering. It being of metal origin and prone to rust and weathering you may seek guidance from conservation societies, like the Railway Preservation Society, for example who are experts in this area. The engine museum may give guidance as to how to conserve, preserve and repaint the metal and wooden materials on this machine as a static piece as it is today.

The playground is in nice condition and no doubt is enjoyed by the children who use it. The GAA clubhouse and facilities are well cared for. The defibrillator installed here could have the Eircode published in notices such as on the essential services board at the community centre.

It is nice to see signs for the Longford Literary trail promoting this heritage in the village.

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

There are some interesting landscape features and planting in and around the village. The quarry being the central theme which is a very attractive feature. It being predominantly a stone park and landscaping here should be of soft native foliage and colour to enhance the beauty and features of the grey stone work.

The hazel at the atrium is noted and is attractive. The bird statue sculptures with the grasses at the entrances to the village are very effective and stunning. Some of your plantings have lovely red begonias in flower, but you may look at using more pollinating and fragrant scented plants such as Lavender and Roses in some of your schemes.

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

In this category you mention losing some trees to winter storm events. In the past, you have planted Oak and Hazel trees. As mentioned before, you may look at planting some more perennial plants in your planting schemes. In your wider roadside verges, keeping a strip or swarth of grass uncut for a period to encourage native wildflowers in that area. In the wider green areas, if you wish to do this, don't do it in a straight line but a contour line which is more pleasing to the eye. However, do cut near the edge of the road for pedestrian safety.

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

Your water storage tank for watering plants is a very sustainable use of this resource. As is reaping the rewards of existing compost heaps by using the material in the flowerbeds. The limestone sculptures in the quarry have been carved from the remains of stones in the quarry and is a very good example of up cycling the use of existing natural resources and materials. The School fundraising initiative by collecting clothes three times per year which are recycled is a good circular economy exercise. Also fitting the school with solar panels should conserve energy and hopefully reduce energy bills over time. The School Green Flags are a testament to the sustainable thinking of the school education.

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

During the adjudication visit there was a general absence of litter in the village and surrounding areas. This is a testament to your hard work and dedication. Roads and paths are well swept with little or no weed debris present. Signage is good and clean, the sign for Heber Donn character in the park could need some attention in time.

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

There are no residential estates in the village, but the village is adorned with varying house types and builds throughout the years. In general, the houses and gardens are very well kept, as is the road frontage areas outside the houses which is an important aspect of the Tidy Towns Campaign.

It is good to read in your submission that unoccupied shop units are being converted to residential houses.

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

The approach roads in around the village are in general good repair as observed during the visit and surfaces easy to cycle on. In general, roadside verges are well maintained. While it is important to be in sympathy with biodiversity on narrow roads and narrow verges, outward growing briar and grass vegetation could do with occasional trimming for pedestrian and cyclist safety, particularly where nettles and large thistles are growing and encroaching onto the road margin. In general, it is good to see mowed roadside verges but with strips alongside the hedges not mowed to aid biodiversity.

Arriving into Newtowncashel is pleasant and welcoming with the signs and the good landscaping adorning some interesting sculptures.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

It was a pleasure to visit Newtowncashel for the first time and to witness and adjudicate your village. It is a beautiful spot and your area is greatly enhanced by your community spirit and effort.

