



AUTUMN 2010



Newcastle achieved a score of 250 out of a possible 400 in the competition which was very heartening. The winner in County Wicklow was Aughrim with 302. The actual judging took place on the 8th July and a further six week's work took place afterwards so we are ahead of ourselves for next year.

The adjudicators found a great deal to admire in Newcastle. The well tended gardens, Rockingham, the dry stone walls, the new stone wall on the way to the Church of Ireland, the bronze doors of that church, Watchtower House, the Community Centre, the Oratory, the house at the Railway, the Garage, the School, the wide grassed verges, the GAA club were all praised. They noted that there was very little litter and considered that Newcastle had made an excellent start in the competition. The full report is available at www.tidytowns.ie.

Various suggestions were made for future work e.g. a wildlife habitat, waste minimisation, removal of weeds growing outside of pavements and cleaning of road signs. However, the most significant suggestion was that we spend some of the winter period examining the village and identifying specific projects to achieve over the next three years. The benefits of such a plan were outlined as concentrating the mind on priorities, securing the wider engagement of the community at large and being useful in engaging with agencies whose funding, cooperation and involvement we will be seeking.



We intend to adopt this recommendation and to draw up a three year plan over the winter. For convenience we will use the same headings as the Tidy Towns competition such as Landscaping, Wildlife and Natural Amenities, Waste Minimisation and the Built Environment. A comprehensive survey of the area is a good starting place for such a plan. We hope that the TCD Botanical Society will help us in carrying out a survey of Botany in Newcastle.

If you have a contribution to make to a survey of history, botany, architecture or landscape of Newcastle or you wish to make a suggestion for improvements to be incorporated into a three year plan you might contact newcastleresidents@gmail.com or attend the next meeting of the Residents Association at 8pm on Monday 6 December.

