

Tidy Towns Competition 2011

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Newcastle** Ref: **1037**
County: **Wicklow** Mark: **257**
Category: **C** Date(s): **09/06/2011**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2010	Mark Awarded 2011
Overall Development Approach	50	27	29
The Built Environment	50	30	30
Landscaping	50	33	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25	29
Litter Control	50	36	36
Waste Minimisation	20	10	10
Tidiness	30	16	17
Residential Areas	40	32	32
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	34	34
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	400	250	257

Overall Development Approach:

You are welcome to the 2011 TidyTowns competition. Your participation is important to the TidyTowns movement. Thank you for the filled out entry form and support material. Thanks also for the very informative map. I read over your three year plan, and you are setting yourself very good and attainable targets. Five is a small quantity of people to have in the committee, but sometimes better progress is made with a small active committee. Could I, with respect, suggest that you could call a public meeting for a winter's night, and invite all the clubs and other groups to attend? Then get them to put forward propositions to make Newcastle a better and a safer place to live in. At a later meeting you could refine the proposals to attainable targets, and add them to your own plans. This tactic has worked very well in other locations. The monthly meetings ensure continuity of effort and are essential to making progress in the competition. You are making good use of the agencies in your area by maintaining contacts with Wicklow County Council, An Taisce, Greenstar and Foroige. The local community are kept informed of your activities through the newsletters, email, public meetings, local newspapers, posters and billboards. This constructive contact that you have with the school is worthwhile and great to see the school are in the green flag initiative. It is pleasing for us to find that you have been happy with the competition last year. People like to mix with each other, and the "Expo" Day is an ideal opportunity for people to get together. All of above means you have a good approach to the competition.

The Built Environment:

The built environment is interesting. I loved the Anglican Church of Ireland built of stone with the impressive Belfry and pretty clock with gold lettering on a blue background. St Francis NS was well presented and has appropriate sports equipment. The Castle Inn is quite attractive and I admired the King's Quarters restaurant with colourful flowers and the two box plants. The castle is a fine historical structure and I note there is an initial survey done of it. The community centre is a practical building and useful to accommodate the play school, and the GAA Grounds are a good facility for the young people of Newcastle. The Holy Spirit Oratory is

a well kept modern building. Railway Cottage is a beauty with the white colouring.

Landscaping:

There a natural landscape appearance to the town with great mature trees, impressive stone walls, the little bridge, and I admired the graveyard at the Anglican Church with the interesting horse mount stone outside dating back to 1757. I could see the "footprints" of an enthusiastic and imaginative people with the additional landscaping you have done all around the village with items such as the Foroige seat, the protected structures and the extensive green areas that are maintained in excellent condition. The tennis courts and playground are great outdoor facilities.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

It was delightful to stand and listen to the birds in the bio-diversity area beside the Oratory and well done for providing this space and it seemed to be a hive of activity. A trip down to Birdwatch Ireland revealed some delights of the citing of different types of birds in full tune. We look forward to the incorporation of the walk way. This type of facility is much used nowadays with all the emphasis on exercise, and you could consider making it a Sli Na Slainte, details of which are available from County Councils.

Litter Control:

You are paying great attention to the control of litter with the record you have provided. It was plain to see that good work is being done on the litter of my visit.

Waste Minimisation:

It is great to find that the school children are benefiting from involvement in the green flag programmes, as this fosters a greater awareness of the best practices to be adopted in relation to the local environment. I inspected the recycling facility at the Community Centre and it was spotlessly clean.

Tidiness:

The town was presented in a tidy fashion. The Church Cottage needs attention and you are concentrating on this. The control of weeds was very good on the pavements and at the side of the road.

Residential Areas:

The housing estates are very well maintained and these residents are at one with you to present the town at its best. The village cottages are very well presented and looked picturesque. The other town houses are also looking great, and some had fine shows of trees, shrubs and lawns plus some colourful flowers. Watch Tower House is an imposing residence.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The main road through the town is in very good condition, and all the road signs are clean and clear. The side roads were a bit bumpy in patches notably the one down by the GAA pitch. The neatly cut grass margins, trees and shrubs give a welcome feeling on arriving at the town. There are some splendid stone walls, some of a new type and many traditional stone walls, and these structures have a forever freshness look when they are well maintained

General Impression:

Well done for a fine effort to attend to all the categories in this competition. I wish Newcastle and its people all the best.