

NEWCASTLE TIDY TOWNS 3 YEAR PLAN 2014 – 2016



INTRODUCTION

Newcastle is situated in an agricultural, rural area, providing services to the local community – many of whom travel to work elsewhere. It has a strong built and natural heritage. The nucleus of the old town which is focussed upon the old castle, church and graveyard is designated as an area of historical and archaeological interest. There are various protected structures and a number of Recorded Monuments in the area. The coastal area forms part of the Murragh Wetlands and is the site of BirdWatch Ireland's East Coast Nature Reserve. To the west the hills are visible and the Little Vartry flows through the old and new centres of Newcastle.

The Residents Association is guided by the Newcastle Town Plan which is part of Wicklow County Development Plan 2010-2016 which aims to preserve Newcastle's charm, beautiful setting and small size. Many of the Objectives of the plan are outside the scope of a Residents Association but we find that the adjudication headings of the TidyTowns competition are a good guide to activities which we can undertake. The attached plan is based on those headings. It is a rolling plan where we note progress and set out steps towards each goal.

The Built Environment and Streetscape

	Progress to Date	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
Conservation and preservation of buildings				
Castle	Property currently for sale	Contact new owners and OPW. Estimate cost of securing castle	Fundraising. Possible sources Heritage Council, W.C.C. & Dept. of Environment, Heritage & Local Govt.	Carry out work required
Church Cottage	Refurbished	Maintain contact with owners to keep refreshed	Maintain contact with owners to keep refreshed	Maintain contact with owners to keep refreshed
Village Cottages	Some painting and tidying of gardens	Liaise with owner. Continue to paint and tidy gardens	Maintain work previously completed	Maintain work previously completed
Treatment of derelict sites				
Strip of land opposite Moatfield	Area next road cleared and new stone wall built	Liaise with owner to maintain wall		
Old School House	Building renovated	Liaise with owner to build wall		3

The Built Environment.....Cont'd

	Progress to Date	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
Public Spaces				
Community Centre Open Area	Liaison with Community Centre Committee and local residents established. Funding given towards new security cameras and kitchen equipment	Ensure ongoing liaison with Community Centre Committee and local residents	Ensure ongoing liaison with Community Centre Committee and local residents	Ensure ongoing liaison with Community Centre Committee and local residents
Playground	Litter bin installed.	Ongoing maintenance	Ongoing maintenance	Ongoing maintenance
Bandstand	Soil cleared off bandstand area. Liaison with local authority to decommission septic tank	Consult residents and locals with a view to possible sculpture.	Fundraising and conservation	Construct whatever has been agreed
Hedge	Hedge of native species planted	Maintain hedging	Maintain hedging.	Maintain hedging.
Wheelchair Walk	Inventory of old walkways completed. Price obtained	Complete work		.

The Built Environment.....Cont'd

	Progress to Date	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
General use of Irish language				
Signage for castle	Temporary sign erected.	Discuss with OPW and Dept. of Environment, Heritage & Local Govt.	Erect appropriate signs	Maintain signs
Signage for other sites of interest	Discussions held with Wicklow Uplands Council.	Continue discussions with OPW and Dept. of Environment, Heritage & Local Govt.	Erect appropriate signs	Maintain signs
Road Signage / Stonework	Liaison with road engineer re proposed stonework	Carry out stonework	Maintain area of stonework	

Landscaping and Open Spaces

	Progress to Date	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
<p>Appropriate selection & siting of trees, shrubs & flowers for year-round effect, maintenance of planted areas, management of open spaces.</p>				
Inventory	Important trees identified at public lecture	Put sign on old sessile oak near Oldfort and remove ivy	Maintain important trees	Maintain important trees
Planting	Trees planted at Leabeg Corner and in centre of village	Ensure continued health of newly planted trees	Ensure continued health of newly planted trees	Ensure continued health of newly planted trees
Riverwalk From Village to Church	Consulted with owners and Leader Initiative Group.	Carry out feasibility study of Riverwalk in line with County Council's 10 year plan. Liaise with W.C.C. in terms of outcome.	Prepare initial budget of costs.	Carry out work.
Hedging & Grass areas	Hedges cut back and grass cut.	Cut back hedges and carry out grass cutting.	Look at ways to minimise grass cutting as not eco-friendly.	Maintain hedges and minimum grass cutting.

Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities

	Progress to Date	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
Conservation of natural amenities and wildlife areas, encouragement of wildlife, amenity walks and nature trails, appropriate access.				
Eco-Area beside Oratory	Ecological survey carried out by TCD Botanical Society Create bio-diversity area for wild birds and insects and enhance regeneration of natural plant species	Establish walkway and erect bird boxes.	Maintain bio-diversity area	
Trial - Wildflower Seeds		Plant area of wildflower seeds as part of green initiative	Maintain area of wildflowers / reseed if necessary	Maintain area of wildflowers / reseed if necessary
Birdwatch Ireland	Several meeting held with a view to developing walkway between village and Nature Reserve	Work closely with Birdwatch Ireland to ensure we are preserving areas of interest	Continue to observe Birdwatch Ireland's guidelines	
Rights of Way	Inventory partly completed. Discussion with owner of land			
5 Mile Point Walk	Several meeting held with a view to developing walkway between village and Nature Reserve	Investigate possibility of walk along road from village to 5 Mile Point – linking village with East Coast Nature Reserve	If possibility exists – liaise with land owner and County Council	

Tidiness and Litter Control

	Progress to Date	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
Absence of litter and dumping, existence of regular litter patrols and other planned activities including involvement of schools, promotion of anti-litter awareness.				
Residential Areas	Clean up day held			
School	Beach clean up day held in conjunction with school	Continue to work with local school in beach clean up initiative	Continue to work with local school in beach clean up initiative	Continue to work with local school in beach clean up initiative

	Progress to Date	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
General lack of clutter in locations and condition of signage, unused lamp poles, blocked footpaths, unsightly electric cables, absence of graffiti and fly-posting, traffic management, control of weed growth on kerbs.				
Signage	Some signs cleaned and some signs replaced	Contact W.C.C. to replace damaged signs	Ensure upkeep of signs	Ensure upkeep of signs
Footpaths	Cobblelock is installed at Rockingham entrance	Ensure footpaths in the area are clear and in good condition	Ensure footpaths in the area are clear and in good condition	Ensure footpaths in the area are clear and in good condition
Grffiti	Some graffiti at G.A.A. ground and on fingerpost removed	Remove any graffiti in the area	Remove any graffiti in the area	Remove any graffiti in the area
Traffic Management	Representations made to W.C.C.	Liaise with W.C.C. with a view to removing street furniture	Continue to liaise with W.C.C.	Repeat efforts to ensure traffic safety
Weeds	Weeds removed	Continue maintenance and encourage residents to weed their areas	Continue maintenance and encourage residents to weed their areas	Continue maintenance and encourage residents to weed their areas

Sustainable Waste and Resource Management

	Progress to Date	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
Promotion of best practice, highlighting facilities, schools' initiatives, segregating litter in clean-ups, working with local businesses and agencies.				
Public Participation	Awareness raised through newsletter and website and public meetings	Raise awareness within area and encourage reduce, reuse, recycle policy	Ensure continued efforts with residents and locals	Repeat efforts
School Update	Liaised with St. Francis N.S. to encourage waste minimisation initiatives	Ensure continued efforts with school	Ensure continued efforts with school	Repeat efforts
Local Businesses		Work with local businesses outlined in directory	Ensure continued efforts with local businesses	Repeat efforts

Residential Streets and Housing Areas

	Progress to Date	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
<p>Elements of the above, in particular maintenance of boundary walls, fences, gardens and communal open spaces, appropriate planting, estate signage and good planning.</p>				
<p>Topical Talk Possibly covering local heritage / history / gardening / bio-diversity</p>	<p>Talks on local trees and farm houses held</p>	<p>Arrange further talk to heighten awareness and raise standards</p>	<p>Introduce new topic to raise level of interest</p>	<p>Renew efforts</p>
<p>Work on communal open spaces</p>	<p>Included in Village Clean up day</p>			

Approach Roads, Streets and Lanes

	Progress to Date	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
Elements of the above, in particular presentation of approach road, streets, connecting roads, laneways and bridges.				
Pure Mile	Competition entered and category award achieved	Continue to progress		
Street	Completed cutting back of hedges before nesting season	Complete cutting back of hedges before nesting season	Encourage residents to maintain their area	Renew efforts
Bridge	Major clean-up and planting completed.	Ensure bridge and surrounds are maintained	Continue efforts to ensure bridge and surrounds are maintained	Renew efforts
Castle Inn	Riverbank area improved	Continue efforts	Continue efforts	Renew efforts