

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Newport** Ref: **567**
County: **Mayo** Mark: **214**
Category: **B** Date(s): **18/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	22
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	12
Residential Areas	40	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	214

Overall Development Approach:

Your adjudicator would like to welcome Newport to the 2008 TidyTowns Competition. Unfortunately only Section 1 of the Entry Form was submitted together with a note stating that 'Full report to follow in a few days...'. The documentation received was dated 16th May 2008 and as of noon on 18th June no further documentation had been received by the TidyTowns Unit. This put your adjudicator at a disadvantage as there was no way of assessing work carried out for this year's competition and the plans for the future. Based on the 2007 Report your committee seems to be progressive and has a good vision for the future of Newport. Do remember that the TidyTowns Handbook gives great information and suggestions. Both new Committees and those who have been involved in the competition for some time will find this booklet really useful.

The Built Environment:

One cannot visit Newport without being impressed by the fine railway bridge superbly designed. The walkway along the top of the bridge gives superb views and the cobble-lock paving was weed free. However the rusty bollards at the walkway entrance needed attention. At the School the concrete post and rail fencing needed to be repainted. The fine restored stone building housing Granary Crafts and the Tourist Information Office would be improved if new hand lettered signage appropriate to the building façade could replace existing signage. The adjudicator really liked the warm red stone of St. Patrick's Church and the fine stone walls along the roadway outside. A few derelict houses were noted. Have you discussed these with the owner and Mayo County Council if appropriate? The attractive stone building occupied by the Nationwide Building Society with the flower tubs and window boxes caught the eye and many of the building along Main Street probably had similar stone facades originally. It is a pity that they have been lost. Keane's Meats was also admired and it was good to note that they have casement windows that look so much better than plastic ones. The Playground area was neatly presented. The Fire Station building disappointed as the doors and windows needed to be repainted and weed growth removed. The building with the Western Health Board notice (now

HSE surely) was extremely eye catching and well presented and good colours are used here. Among other buildings that stand out include the Gruainne Uaile.

Landscaping:

In the past landscaping has been a strong performance category for Newport. The Park area is attractively located by the river side but the presentation disappointed here. The blue seats needed to be painted and the picnic tables re-treated as did the fencing to the river. The grass was in need of a cut. The litter bins here are rusty and replacement may be required for 2009. The many trees in the town centre and on approach roads complimented by smaller landscaped areas provide real visual character for Newport. On the Castlebar approach by the bridge areas of burnt grass were noted. This may have been due to the over-use of Weedkiller and this area will probably need to be reseeded. You are so lucky that large mature trees play such an important role in what makes Newport a most attractive place to visit.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

It would be interesting to know if you have been able to make any further progress on developing this aspect of the town. As last year's adjudicator noted the Lop has major wildlife potential with both river and woodland habitats available. On this walk where the verge narrows the grass areas were a little rough and need to be leveled.

Litter Control:

In terms of litter control the Bring Centre was a major disappointment. From the road this area looks well but large quantities of litter have been pushed down between the stone wall and the units. In the view of this adjudicator this is not an ideal location for this community facility and alternatives might be examined. A lot of litter was noted before the entrance to Seaview Park and a few pieces on the Westport road.

Waste Minimisation:

Congratulations to the School on achieving their Green Flag.

Tidiness:

There is scope for tidiness improvement based on the 2007 marks and unfortunately this year a number of generally easily resolved problem areas were noted during the visit. At the laneway that starts at the front of the Hotel the metal gate on the left needed to be painted and weed growth was a problem on the Castlebar road in from the 50 KPH signs. On this approach road just before the Main Street a skip was noted in the car parking area on the left. This appeared as if it had been in place for some time. An abandoned blue van at the start of the Fahy road on the right needs to be removed by the owner. On the road to the Catholic Church the green road bridge needs to be painted and the sections visible from the apartment development also needed to be painted. The area before the Lios Mor estate could be improved in presentation terms also.

Residential Areas:

The standard overall was quite good with some excellently landscaped gardens complimenting the residence. At Rosmore a few dead or ailing trees were noted and there was also some bad grass growth at roadside kerbing. The well cut lawn and the landscaping at the entrance caught the eye. A lot of brown patches were noted in the grass areas at Seaview and the low concrete walls would be improved if repainted white. At Bayview Drive excellent grass and trees at the roadside is highly commended and congratulations to those who obviously work so hard on this.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The main approach roads to Westport and Castlebar were well presented and the fine trees were much admired together with the fine grass verges on the Westport approach. The Castlebar approach has the great attraction of having the river just beside the road. The verges on the Crossmolina and Ballycroy approach roads were in need of a cut. The presentation of some of the small laneways off the Main Street and main roads needed some attention in presentation terms as they fall within the adjudication area.

General Impression:

It was a pleasure for your adjudicator to visit your area for the first time. Good luck with your TidyTowns projects for 2009 when we look forward to visiting you again.