

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Newport** Ref: **567**
County: **Mayo** Mark: **223**
Category: **B** Date(s): **11/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	37
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	21
Litter Control	50	25
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	12
Residential Areas	40	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	223

Overall Development Approach:

Newport Tidy Towns Committee is welcome to the 2009 Competition. Your submission was most comprehensive and very professional. The photographs helped to clearly identify the area upon which you have worked, those that are causing problems, and where you plan to improve upon things in the future. It was clear and very comprehensible. Maps were also most useful on the day. We were pleased to hear of your numerous meetings with Mayo County Council in the course of your work and you obviously liaise quite closely with them regarding common areas of interest, such as the park. Your work in relation to heritage is also commendable, particularly as it involves the national school. The participation of three of the committee in a heritage course is laudable and we look forward to seeing your future projects regarding the linen industry and Quakers.

The Built Environment:

The standard in this category was somewhat inconsistent on the day, the buildings that face the waterfront on Meddicott Street looked to be in better condition than those of Main Street, for the most part. The sign to Joyce's garage on Meddicott Street, will need repairing before next year, however. The square church in red sandstone stands proudly above the town on the hillside. It is a magnificent example of its style and the adjudicator was delighted to discover that it has Harry Clarke windows! The school on the Mulranny Road was admired, in particular its mural. McFadden's looked quite fresh, as did Centra and the Grainne Uaile. The Post Office will need painting before next year's competition. Some empty sites and buildings looked unfortunate on Main Street. Be careful to research the design of buildings and ensure that the render is not removed from traditional vernacular houses and shops. These were intended to be plastered and, therefore, its removal can lead to problems of water penetration, as well as being inconsistent from a conservation point of view. Good luck with your work at the collapsed bridge. We noted that you have been divided into two electoral areas, some towns find this can be to their advantage, as they can benefit from two councils, hopefully this will be

your experience! The Fire Station should be repainted before next year.

Landscaping:

The park area and playground were admired and were being well maintained. Newly planted trees were coming along well. We looked at your long-term plans for this area with interest and were disappointed to note that this has been put on hold for the moment. Hopefully, this will be realised in time. The work at the Oratory was commendable, as was ongoing work to Princess Grace Park. It is marvellous that you are recognising her ancestral home in this way. Plans for this area also looked interesting and contained a strong concept. An attractive stone planted bed was admired on the Westport side of the town. The boat, with planting at the water's edge, was admired. Congratulations to all those concerned with its replacement, which was noted in your submission. Planting along the riverside, adjacent to the fire station, was admired.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

We read with interest of the bird nesting box project at the school and applaud its success. The ongoing work at Princess Grace Park is also laudable. Your work in relation to bio-diversity was read of with interest.

Litter Control:

Litter control on the day was good.

Waste Minimisation:

We noted the proposed re-sitting of the recycling area, and this seems like a sensible move. We look forward to seeing the results of your waste minimisation project at the school.

Tidiness:

You have correctly identified in your own documentation the problems of dereliction. That property at the corner of Main Street leading up to the Catholic Church is a particular problem in its prominent location. Could even the mural be repainted to improve its appearance? Weeds were apparent at kerbsides to the houses near the school on the Mulranny Road. Graffiti was spotted in a number of locations. Weeds were apparent to kerbsides on the Westport side of the town.

Residential Areas:

The housing estates and individual houses of the village were generally well cared for. The houses on the Mulranny side of the town with their well maintained open space and pots was admired. The houses near the school appeared a little neglected on this road.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approach roads were generally reasonably well cared for within the specified areas of nameplate/speed limit signage. The bridge leading up to the Catholic Church had yet to be painted on the day, but we noted your plans to do so, along with other items of street furniture such as railings and seating. Do discourage advertising hoardings which can give approach roads a rather cluttered appearance. The Mulranny Road was a little inconsistent in terms of maintenance of grass verges, it was good for the most part, but looked a little overgrown opposite the row of houses on this road. Verges were well maintained on the Westport Road. The raised footpath on Main Street is unusual and was admired, as was the railway viaduct. In terms of street furniture, the traditional phone box should be repainted before next year, its retention is commendable.

General Impression:

It was many years since this adjudicator had visited Newport and it was a pleasure to re-visit after such a long time. It still retains its charm.