

Tidy Towns Competition 2010

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Newport** Ref: **567**
County: **Mayo** Mark: **237**
Category: **B** Date(s): **22/06/2010**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009	Mark Awarded 2010
Overall Development Approach	50	37	37
The Built Environment	50	33	35
Landscaping	50	32	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	21	25
Litter Control	50	25	27
Waste Minimisation	20	7	10
Tidiness	30	12	15
Residential Areas	40	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28	28
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	400	223	237

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the filled up Entry Form and map of the village. The support material supplied gives great information on the strides you are making to improve the area. 10 is a good size committee and you are holding sufficient meetings to plan your activities and monitor progress. You are making good use of the Mayo agencies and bodies, and the parishioners are well informed of your TidyTowns work. There is always a positive knock-on effect from the contacts you have and support you give to the local school. It is pleasing to find that you are getting satisfaction out of participation in the competition.

The Built Environment:

This is a very interesting historic town with some great traditional shop fronts and newer ones that fit in well with the surroundings. I admired Gráinne Uailr bar, the Black Oak bar, the post office, Centra, the Crafts Building, the Credit Union and Domnick Kelly's bar, but in fairness many other shops are just as good. The distinctive church with the tall belfry is an imposing structure where delights of workmanship with stone are revealed, and it is maintained in great condition. I wondered why aerials were permitted on top and learned that it is necessary to have them to get a TV signal because of all the mountains all around. The two stone built bridges, like the church, show wonderful stonework where traditional building techniques are seen in fantastic detail. A modern bridge going up to the church is in excellent condition. The national problem with dereliction is also in Newport and you are doing your best to come up with solutions, and the photos supplied are noted. I saw the photograph and indeed the actual building that was camouflaged. The mural is a good solution to a local problem – well done. The large anchor reminds us of our proximity to the river, and is a nice feature. I saw the repair work done on the wall at the anchor, and it is great to see it repaired, but one small issue here is I would prefer to see the pointing done flush like the rest of the walls all around.

Landscaping:

Nice spaces of landscaping were admired at a few locations where the grassed areas were trim and tidy. There is good landscaping at the bridge in the amenity area. There really is a natural landscape to be seen in many areas with wonderful stone walls and great mature trees. Landscaping up at the Church was of a good quality. The area around the boat is lovely and well done for the restoration of the boat. I read the list of tasks undertaken and it was nice to find these sites to admire your work – well done. A vast array of new trees that you have planted will further enhance this historic town.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

I feel you could pay more attention to this category and thereby gain a lot of additional marks, as there is great potential here in Newport where a variety of wildlife is found. There is a nice walk along by the side of the Black Oak River with the footpath where many different types of birds were seen. The fantastic trees are great cover for wildlife. One Oak tree attracts over 250 species of mammals and insects – food for the wildlife. We look forward to the completion of the work in Princess Grace Park, especially the provision of information boards.

Litter Control:

I saw that great photo of the work done picking up the litter, and your volunteers are applauded for this work. It is good to see the youth club helping out especially when there is a tendency for the younger people to litter places, but obviously not in Newport. Litter control is a year long job, and the control of litter was good on my adjudication, caused in no small way by your participation in the Mayo litter league. Plenty litter bins are in place around the town.

Waste Minimisation:

It is a great achievement for the schools to get the green flags awards, and you could continue to support them. It is fantastic to see that the children have started composting in the three bins, and better again to see that they have started their own vegetables gardens – well done to all concerned.

Tidiness:

Where the cables are underground there is a freshness and clean view. Some dereliction is untidy, but really not your fault. A secure rebuilding job was done on the wall at the anchor which really tidies up this area. There are some ongoing building works which leave the surroundings untidy.

Residential Areas:

There are a variety of great town houses in Newport that are well maintained and some had attractive floral displays. There are some well planned estates with attractive landscaping and apartment buildings are in some locations, but some did not seem to be occupied and another project is left unfinished, and we applaud the pressure applied to the builder to finish off the work.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The nice landscaping along the sides of the roads gives a feel good effect. The surfaces of some of the roads are quite poor in some area and especially going up the hill towards the church. I loved all those wonderful stone walls along by the side of the roads, and well maintained stone walls have a forever new appearance. The road signage was good. The footpath along the side of the Black Oak River makes for an excellent walking route for locals and tourists.

General Impression:

It was a pleasure to visit your lovely historic town. I look forward to your improving performances in the competition in the near future.