

Tidy Towns Competition 2011

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Newport** Ref: **567**
County: **Mayo** Mark: **247**
Category: **B** Date(s): **27/06/2011**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2010	Mark Awarded 2011
Overall Development Approach	50	37	37
The Built Environment	50	35	36
Landscaping	50	32	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25	28
Litter Control	50	27	28
Waste Minimisation	20	10	11
Tidiness	30	15	17
Residential Areas	40	21	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28	29
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	400	237	247

Overall Development Approach:

Newport is welcome to the 2011 National TidyTowns Competition; thank you for your submission it helped the adjudication process. The level of voluntary commitment is strong and it is pleasing to know of the two local youth clubs that play an active part in the presentation and enhancement of Newport. Congratulations on the links forged with a diverse group of agencies and bodies that support TidyTowns activities. Well done also on your communication techniques particularly your website. The Newport TidyTowns committee's engagement with schools on a variety of initiatives is noteworthy. It is important to submit a three year plan for your town with each year of entry, we did not receive one this year.

The Built Environment:

The Holy Family National School is nicely landscaped, its roadside fencing should now be upgraded, the mural to the prefabs at the side is noted. The imaginative treatment of the old Granary building and adjacent amenity corner is applauded as an interim measure. A small ecclesiastical building (Quay Road) could be painted to 'freshen' its appearance and the Parochial Hall and the building to the memory of Charlie McGee need improvement also. The majority of Newport's built environment is nicely presented and the church and its grounds were admired. Good luck with the development of the new Community Centre and other initiatives in this category.

Landscaping:

Attractive landscaping at the entrance to Newport from the N59 Mulranny is a good introduction to Newport. The curtilage area of the Topaz service station should be landscaped. Container flower displays throughout the town and at the entrance from the Molua road looked well. Planted boats are an attractive feature but at the time of adjudication flower displays were not yet in bloom. Landscaping on both the Castlebar and

Westport roads were admired also. Your spring planting regime is appreciated. Well done on the maintenance to the Greenway.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Congratulations on Loop Walks and associated new signage together with information signage on Newport's wildlife. Your engagement with the school on their Green Wave project is commendable. The foreshore area was clean and the picnic site well maintained. The footbridge across the viaduct enjoys good landscaping and the playground good maintenance. The Riverside Park is an invaluable amenity for the Newport community. Newport's proposed projects in this category are exciting and we wish you well in bringing them to fruition.

Litter Control:

Litter control was strong in Newport on adjudication day. Congratulations on the town's success in the Mayo Litter Action League and your participation in the National Civic Pride Week and National Spring Clean. The weekly litter pick rotas are noted together with the installation of dog-waste repository at the quay area.

Waste Minimisation:

Newport's recycling points were neatly presented at the time of our visit, the CCTV installed must be achieving its purpose; your composting plans are noteworthy. Well done to Newport's school children on their participation in the Green Flag initiative. Consideration might now be given to orchestrating a Community Waste Audit involving all sectors of Newport's community with a view to preventing as much waste as possible at source in addition to recycling.

Tidiness:

The Newport committee's proactive approach to tackling the problem of derelict sites and buildings is admirable and will eventually bring about the desired results. Congratulations on the ducting of service cables on the Mulranny entrance, try to maintain kerbs to footpaths along this stretch and elsewhere in the town free of weed growth. Untidy commercial yards across from the nameplate on the Claremorris road need improvement and outbuildings across from the GAA complex might be upgraded or planted to screen. Walls to the GAA grounds were nicely whitewashed. The surrounds of the planted boat on Quay road looked a bit rough.

Residential Areas:

Congratulations on work completed at the Tennis courts and their environs this year. The formation of small residents groups to maintain their own areas is a sustainable initiative and most worthwhile. The majority of dwellings in Newport are nicely presented however many roadside boundary walls were in need of improvement. If residents can do this and take responsibility for their own communal areas it would make a significant contribution to environmental enhancement in Newport. The best of luck with plans to address drainage issues in Canon Killeen Park.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Well done on the installation of bicycle racks and your work to provide a safe cycling / walking route for Newport's children. Road and footpath surfaces together with street furniture are nicely maintained and presented. A sign however for a Garden Centre needed cleaning and the one for the Newport Woolen Mill should be either removed (if redundant) or revealed and refurbished and a seat needed to be painted. Grassed verges on the Claremorris road were neat and the riverside stone wall on the Castlebar road was admired. Well done on the newly designed town signs and logo, they are truly beautiful.

General Impression:

The overall impression of Newport is favorable and in the opinion of this adjudicator the town is well on its way to recapturing its unique charm and beauty.