

Tidy Towns Competition 2019

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Newmarket - Áth Trasna** Ref: **658**
County: **Cork(North)** Mark: **292**
Category: **C** Date(s): **10/07/2019**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2018	Mark Awarded 2019
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	41	41
Streetscape & Public Places	60	40	40
Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	42	43
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	36	36
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	13	13
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	53	55
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	29	29
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	34	35
TOTAL MARK	470	288	292

Community – Your Planning and Involvement / An Pobal - Pleanáil agus Rannpháirtíocht:

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Newmarket – Áth Trasna páirt a ghlacadh i gComórtas Náisiúnta SuperValu na mBailte Slachtmhara 2019. Many thanks for application, map, photos and list of future projects. I found the map ok to follow and therefore I think it is probably is an improvement on last year's map which the adjudicator found difficult to follow. There is still some room for improvement though. It would help if you marked on the local of key features to help navigate such as schools and churches, and just indicate where current projects are located. Please follow last year's adjudicator's advice next year and indicate new (N), maintenance (M) and future projects (FP) on the application form. It helps if projects are numbered on the form and the same numbers are indicated on the map, where appropriate. You have a committee of 10 and a pool of 6 volunteers who help out. You are supported in your work by Cork County Council and local businesses. You use a range of methods to communicate with your community. It's good idea to liaise with the local national schools and Foróige group. This is your ninth year in the competition since the new committee was formed and we're delighted to have you on board. You have been successful in attracting funding for the town to improve the playground and landscaping, which is great. I'm sure your community are very grateful for your efforts.

Streetscape & Public Places / Sráid-Dreach & Áiteanna Poiblí:

Newmarket is an interesting village with a large number of historic buildings. The hilly terrain provides lovely vistas of the surrounding countryside. The plan to develop a heritage centre in the old Church of Ireland sounds like it will be a great addition to the town. It is a beautiful building. You mention that you secured funding to paint buildings throughout your community which is great. How many buildings did you manage to paint? Some before and after photos would be most helpful and an indication of location. I agree that it will make an impact to brighten up the town and help deal with the issue of dereliction. The Coolagh Bridge walk wasn't indicated on the map but I did figure out where it was and noted the new lighting. There are several well-presented premises in the town including the SuperValu, Market 18, the Social Welfare Office plus others. Newmarket Boys NS is very well presented in a great location next to the Town Park and lovely playground. The County Council building looks well with trees in front. I think a heritage trail of the town would a great future project if there was an interest in developing one locally.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The playground is a super amenity for the town and it looks lovely with the colourful mural. You have started work on an outdoor classroom in the Town Park. There is potential here to include some biodiversity friendly planting (e.g. pollinator-friendly perennials, meadow grassland, native trees and shrubs etc.) that will add to the educational and aesthetic value of the site. The community garden is small but a nice space for the community. The mural here could be updated in time. I agree with last year's adjudicator that the adjacent space with red and black panels

could be improved. How about a few larger planters in the short-term until you come up with a plan for this space? The town would benefit from more street trees. You have several nice planters around the town with colourful planting. I particularly like some half barrel planters that I think were on the Charleville Road. There was a tree in large planter on the same road with a tree that isn't thriving, probably because the planter is too small. The wooden planters on the Main St. with conifers and flowers look well, all freshly painted. Future planting could include more perennials and less reliance on summer bedding. You are lucky to have some good CE scheme employees that look after the public green spaces in the town so well.

Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality / An Dúlra agus an Bhithéagsúlacht i do cheantar:

The old graveyard adjacent to the Church of Ireland is a nice quiet spot for biodiversity. When the Heritage Centre opens perhaps you could include some information on local nature and wildlife. You could increase the amount of pollinator-friendly plants in your planting schemes throughout the town, see www.pollinators.ie for ideas of potential projects and planting. You have some nice planting in the community garden. The river is an important wildlife habitat in your town. How about contacting the Water and Communities Officer to see if there are any potential projects you can do to protect and enhance the river? Perhaps they could give a talk or nature walk for the local community.

Sustainability – Doing more with less / Inmharthanacht - Mórán ar an mbeagán:

It's good to read that you have recycling facilities in the town. There are located near the County Council offices. Nowadays the emphasis is more on reducing the amount of waste we produce. Recycling and re-using materials is important but we really need to reduce the amount of waste we produce. See <https://voiceireland.org/perch/resources/admin/zero-waste-community-toolkit-final1.pdf> for ideas. The environment officer in Cork County Council might be able to give you some ideas.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Newmarket was more or less litter free on adjudication day. Your weekly clean-ups are making a positive impact. There was a small amount of rubbish in the car park behind Supervalu and the Community Garden. The main street was clean and tidy with nice planters and some additional floral displays in front on businesses. The footpaths look particularly well. I didn't notice an issue with dog fouling and it's good to read that you have designated bins in areas that dog walkers frequent. There wasn't much clutter on the streets and not much fly posting. There was some weed growth in front of the County Council building in the gravel bed that could be managed by planting a ground cover.

Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:

There are some very well-presented residences throughout the town including many well-painted and attractive town houses on the main streets and approach roads. There are also several residential areas and estates in the town. It's good to read that residents are gathering too maintain their own areas in the town. It's a great idea to facilitate residents' groups by providing materials and assistance as required. Some residential areas didn't appear to have name-plates but it could be that I just didn't spot it. Castle Court has some nice gardens and trees. There is a lovely planter at the entrance to the estate and lovely views of the surrounding countryside.

Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:

The approach roads have a mix of grassy banks, trees and hedgerows. The welcome signs to the town are attractive. The surrounding countryside is really lovely and its so nice to get glimpses of it where you are in the town. Footpaths linking residents to the town centre are so important and it's great that you helped local residents secure funding for a footpath on the lower road entrance in 2018. Some of the road markings in the town are quite worn and need repainting.

Concluding Remarks:

I really enjoyed wandering around Newmarket on a lovely summer's day. If you could include some photographs with your application next, it would be most helpful. It might also be worth developing a three-year plan to guide your work going forward. You are making good progress and I wish you the very best of luck.