

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **FEAKLE**  
County : **CLARE**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 24-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16
Landscaping	40	26
The Built Environment	40	27
Litter Control	40	26
Tidiness	20	13
Residential Areas	30	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25
General Impression	10	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>187</b>

## **Adjudicator's Comments**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

The recently formed Community Council and their efforts deserve the support of the village. We note their plans to use a Local Authority grant to improve the area around O'Sheas Hill; other improvements at the graveyard and some stone walls; the proposals to involve the school; to organise regular litter collections and an area scheme; landscaping at a number of locations throughout the village and to involve FAS on a number of these projects. The Competition, from 1997, will require each centre to produce a development plan and work programme which will guide their Tidy Town activities. This plan would be over a 3-5 year period and should clearly set out objectives for each year of the plan - realistic objectives with a reasonable number of targets which can be achieved in each year. The new Community Council should set about drawing up such a plan as a priority and it should be circulated throughout the community, so that all are aware of what has to be done. All of the relevant agencies and statutory bodies should be involved with the preparation of this plan. The overall objective is not just to improve the village for its own sake but to make it more attractive and welcoming for the many visitors that come to Feakle each year, especially during the International Music and Feakle Singing Festivals and other traditional music events.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The entry form referred to wildlife projects which are at the planning stage. Nature preservation is not only a countryside activity and many wildlife habitats may be found within the urban environment - woodlands, rivers, ponds, hedgerows and along grass margins on approach roads. There is much scope for the Community Council in this section of the Competition and an opportunity to involve the local school perhaps in the planning and adoption of an appropriate project. If there are any members or the community with a particular expertise in environmental matters, they should be involved in this process.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The previous Committees had initiated projects and put a lot of effort into landscaping and planting at the Fair Green and elsewhere and there is evidence of more recent work, e.g. the nicely presented area at the junction on the Tulla road and along the road near the Rent-a-Cottage scheme. The water feature at the bridge in the middle of the main street has already been noted in previous reports. The village is well spread out and there is a great opportunity to capitalise on this - maintain the many stretches of stone walls, treat and landscape open areas, maintain hedgerows but avoid too close treatment. Some roads, e.g. the road from the graveyard to the creamery, should be treated as pleasant country lanes. The grotto and the area around the graveyard and the Merriman memorial are two focal points that deserve particular attention.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT.**

The standard of maintenance and presentation of public and commercial buildings in the village is generally good e. g. Smyths Village Hotel, the Rent a Cottage scheme, the School, the Post Office, the parish Church and Community Centre together with shops and pubs throughout the village. Telecom Eireann could be approached to provide a new telephone kiosk. The GAA grounds look well and some clean-up along the stone walls opposite would improve this area. The area around the old creamery and the co-op yard opposite could also be improved.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter control is reasonably good and the new Community Councils plans in this regard will make great improvements. The litter bins which have already been provided, especially at some shops are obviously being used and more should be provided if possible. The adopt an area scheme to control litter, identify problem areas and how to deal with them - the proposal to introduce this is to be commended and encouraged, and here again the School should be involved.

## TIDINESS

The village was neat and tidy and quite reasonably presented on the day of adjudication and there was some work in progress tidying up the walls and hedges near the Rent a Cottage scheme and grass had been cut near the Tulla road. The Community Council should be encouraged to extend their weed-spraying and improving the appearance of some of the areas mentioned in your entry form.

## RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Private residences throughout the village are, by and large, of a good standard, with some excellent individual properties. It does appear that most property owners are making an effort to contribute towards the overall efforts to make their own place a better place and to enhance the appearance of the village. The abandoned cars near the Rural Housing scheme spoil the obvious efforts of individual householders in this area and removal would encourage maintenance of the open spaces and approach into the estate. The run-down properties on the main street, near Bohans bar, with the "For Sale" sign will, hopefully, be upgraded by the new owners.

## ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Approach roads need more attention and the work already started on stone walls, grass verges and hedges should be continued. All road signs and village signs should be cleaned and painted; the area display map at the Fair Green is most informative and useful to visitors to the village and the newly developed walking trails marked on it should encourage visitors to spend more time in the area.

## GENERAL IMPRESSION

Overall the village has the potential to do better in the Tidy Towns competition and the Community Council has an opportunity to continue the work that has gone before by involving the whole community. There is already evidence that this new approach will improve the appearance and appeal of the village for, as already mention, both the community itself and also for visitors to Feakle.