

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **FEENAGH**  
County : **LIMERICK**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 18-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19
Landscaping	40	31
The Built Environment	40	31
Litter Control	40	34
Tidiness	20	13
Residential Areas	30	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>219</b>

## Adjudicator's Comments

### OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

To judge from your greatly detailed responses to the questionnaire, Feenagh would seem to have a good working relationship with the relevant local statutory bodies. For next year's competition it is important to have compiled a 3/5 year plan of campaign for your town in order to give yourselves a clear direction for dealing with the problem areas within the community.

### WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Possibly the best way of approaching this classification, would be to get in touch with your local environmental groups and experts in order to seek advice on this broad-ranging issue. From there, you can then identify your local wildlife habitats and see what species of animals, birds, fish and plantlife these attract. A good idea would be to involve the local schoolchildren in this programme-they will hopefully bring a fresh enthusiasm for the abundance of wildlife in their local environment.

### LANDSCAPING

A lot of thought had obviously been given to this category. All in all a terrific effort all round. The abundant window boxes, tubs and hanging baskets overflowing with geraniums and pansies to the house beside the pub on Main Street looked magnificent. Throughout the village there were a lot of seating areas and incidental spaces, poached egg plants and aubretia surrounded the bases of the trees marching along Main Street, and there had been a lot of tree and hedge-planting which is to be commended as an investment for future generations. The combination of stone walls and hedges is extremely attractive. An incidental landscaping feature of note was that opposite the new houses, with pansies and snapdragons amongst the many other flowers -while an "outbreak" of wallflowers that had occurred to the cracks in pavement at the base of a house on Main Street was a pleasant surprise. The village pump beside the church was simply presented, although the wall behind could be freshly whitewashed.

### THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Both the public and commercial premises of the town were presented to a reasonably high standard on Adjudication Day. The Community Centre, formerly the old National School, looked very well, although the forecourt area does need some landscaping: hopefully your plans for renovations include this. This adjudicator agrees that the seating area suggested in the report by last year's adjudicator is an excellent idea. The church was reasonably well presented but could be freshened up before next year's competition. The boundary wall was in very bad order and the railings need freshening, too. The building is a very prominent one in its central location on the bend of Main Street. It is, therefore especially important try to conceal the oil tank from public view (by perhaps forming a frame and growing creeper up in a similar fashion to that solution reached by the school?). The quaintly attractive library, with its limestone surround to door in an asymmetrical facade, was in the process of being painted on Adjudication Day. The P & T building could be freshly painted, although its grounds were well maintained. The most attractive "nameless" green pub with window boxes and square tubs should remove the inappropriate plastic advertising signs on its facade. As should the Village Inn. In its yellow and green colour it was reasonably fresh, if a little bit flaky -it should be freshened up before next year's competition. Shopkeepers and publicans should be encouraged to remove these signs as well as excessive stickers to shop windows and curved plastic canopies as they detract from the quality of Main Street. These latter should be replaced with a more traditional awning in a natural fabric. There was work in progress to the whitewashed wall diagonally opposite the school on the Milford road.

### LITTER CONTROL

No litter was apparent on Adjudication Day. Congratulations to all those concerned on an excellent result in terms of maintaining a high standard of litter control.

## TIDINESS

The first impression of the village of Feenagh was a neat and tidy one. However, closer inspection indicated a few problem areas. There was a quite messy and unsightly yard area with unpainted gates on the Kilmeedy road. Some weeds were a problem to the base of the gates to the school and to the gravelled yard area beside the green pub. The yard area behind and beside the library looked quite unsightly. Hopefully it will be screened off by the adjacent new house currently in progress. The pavements of Main Street do, as you correctly point out in your questionnaire need replacing as the concrete is very cracked and extremely weedy. The high bank to the field opposite the green pub was very overgrown, and looked quite unsightly.

## RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard in this category was very high on Adjudication Day as most people had made the effort to present their own properties to their best advantage. Hopefully the new houses will be landscaped to as high a standard as those houses opposite with their freshly whitewashed boundary walls and magnificent gardens. The beautiful large white house with its "columns" of creepers scaling the facade and magnificent garden on the village side of the school road was particularly admired. Some weeding was necessary to the base of a boundary wall which itself needed a fresh coat of paint to the far side of the school. The quaintly attractive thatched cottage with its traditional cottage garden was also admired although the boundary wall could be painted before next year.

## ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Newcastle west/Kilmeedy road had well trimmed verges and an unusual cast-iron cauldron floral feature by the village nameplate. The new trees on the high grass banks and recessed stone and timber benches were also admired. The adjudicator was pleased to note the retention of the traditional telephone box. The road surfaces around the village were not in the best condition-perhaps more pressure could be put on Limerick County Council to do some much needed repair work.

## GENERAL IMPRESSION

The village of Feenagh is an attractive one with its curved Main Street dominated by the church. The community in general had made great efforts to present it to its best advantage. And are obviously continuing to do so, given the positive "buzz" of activity in the village on Adjudication Day!

## SECOND ADJUDICATION (03/08/96)

With the exception of some kerbside weed growth, Feenagh was looking as good, if not better, than it did on first adjudication day. This is a rural village in the most praiseworthy sense and it is a blessing to see that suburbanisation has not occurred in the interests of a false sense of smartness, as has happened in some other centres. Heartiest congratulations on the work.