

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 27-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	29
The Built Environment	40	27	27
Landscaping	40	25	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	26	26
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	20	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	188	187

Feakle, County Clare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for comprehensively completed application form. We note that Feakle Tidy Towns Committee has taken over from Feakle Community Council and we wish this group every success with their efforts in the future. It is encouraging to hear that the community have expressed their willingness to co-operate in a practical and financial manner. The support received from Clare County Council and the FAS scheme in place at present should also assist you in achieving your aims. We would recommend that a simple 3/5 year plan now be produced setting out your objectives and also the mechanisms to be used to reach these targets within a planned time frame.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Feakle in its layout is an attractive village and in general the public and commercial buildings are well presented. These include the Post Office, Peppers Bar and amenity area opposite, Bohans Bar, Smyths Village Hotel (here the wall near the entrance needs some repair) and C.R Smyth (shop and petrol pumps well presented but store next door needing attention). Scoil Muire is exceptionally well kept and grounds are nicely planted - the new stone wall being built at the side of the School is very good. However, the derelict buildings in the centre of the village are still a problem. The old stone buildings with steps leading upwards near the bridge have potential for development. As previously mentioned, the telephone box is poor and should be replaced. The Church is neat and tidy, as is the Hall nearby. The poor plastic sign at Lenas Bar and also the plastic sign on the Foodmarket near the Church are out of keeping with the village and if possible the owners should be encouraged to remove and replace with more suitable signage. There are some nice examples of stone walls throughout the village and surrounds but in some places there are still walls and fences needing attention. The Rent an Irish Cottage scheme (where there were a number of houses occupied at the time of Adjudication) is beautifully landscaped and colourful and the houses were very well presented with the grass freshly cut.

LANDSCAPING

Quite an amount of landscaping has taken place in Feakle over the years and has created a pleasant and colourful environment around the village. In this regard the new flower tubs at the Square were noted. However, some of the landscaping work has not been maintained - wooden tubs were not painted and in some instances metal hoops on the tubs were broken; some flower beds were un-weeded and rather overgrown and fencing and seating at the Shrine needed attention.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

We note that you have projects planned in this area and no doubt

you are involving the wildlife experts in the community in this process. Perhaps for a start the schoolchildren could undertake a project identifying the flora and fauna and wildlife habitats in the area. The stream flowing through the village is a natural amenity to be cherished.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control is very good and only a very little amount of same was sighted in the village. Litter bins are strategically placed and the new ones you have on order should also help. The adjudicator did notice some litter bins that were functional but needed to be painted.

TIDINESS

Whilst mostly presenting a tidy appearance a number of areas could be improved such as by the stores at C.R. Smyths and a very untidy yard on the right on the road from the RIC cottages where fertiliser bags, pallets, gravel and stones were in evidence. At the entrance to the East Clare Way, a garage and yard needed attention. In general some more early clearing and spraying of weeds should be undertaken throughout the village. Also, the grass in the graveyard needed to be cut on the day of adjudication.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The housing estate on the GAA grounds road is very well kept - weed and litter free with most of the houses well presented and work in progress on the others. However, the fence needed painting here and also the old yellow and brown litter bins. Most of the private houses in the village and on the approach roads are very well presented and some are exceptional.

Many private houses have supported the Tidy Towns effort by providing colourful window boxes.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

More attention is needed in this area with the hedges on many approaches needing to be cut, especially on the pathway from the village to the Post Office. The wooden fencing opposite C.R. Smyths Shop and at the car park down from the Hotel is broken and needed attention. The old decrepit seat and chairs at the vee junction on the Limerick Road are still in place and should be removed immediately. A number of old, rusting gates on all roads were noticed; the owners should be encouraged to upgrade these. Signage is good throughout.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Feakle has the potential to do well in the Tidy Towns Competition and thereby make the village a better place for residents and visitors alike. We look forward to much improvement in the years ahead and wish you every success in your endeavours.