

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **NEWMARKET-ON-FERGUS**
County : **CLARE**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 09-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	27
The Built Environment	40	27	26
Landscaping	40	32	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	24	25
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	18	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	22
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	190	183

Newmarket-on-Fergus, County Clare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The Tidy Towns Plan submitted with the entry form is a most interesting document and the OBAIR group is to be commended on work done and achievements to date. The on-going improvements will, no doubt, bring the village closer to achieving their ultimate goal in the Competition. The appearance of the village has improved considerably and there does seem to be good community support for the work being undertaken by the OBAIR group. Despite the extremely high traffic flow through the village, the approach roads are well-maintained and the new village signs are very attractive. The proposed riverside park is an ambitious project and will be a valuable amenity to the village when completed. Continued co-operation with FAS, Clare County Council and Shannon Development, with cross-community involvement and support, should ensure the successful implementation of the work programme as set out in the plan (the awards received to-date deserve congratulations).

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Buildings, public and private, commercial and residential, throughout the village are improving in maintenance and presentation and with, few exceptions, are making a definite contribution to the overall appearance of Newmarket-on-Fergus.

LANDSCAPING

The extensive planting of flowers and trees on the approach roads has greatly improved visitors' impressions on entering the village, especially on the Limerick and Ennis roads. The proposed improvements on the Ballycar road at the cross will greatly enhance that particular approach. Open spaces elsewhere throughout the village and in residential areas are being similarly treated and this landscaping and planting programme is having an obvious effect on the overall appearance of the village.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The wildlife and natural amenities is a new section in the Competition and your riverside park and wildlife sanctuary affords an ideal opportunity to gain marks here, together also with the proposed landscaping and lakeside walk at Lough Gash.

LITTER CONTROL

Despite the heavy volume of daily traffic through the village, the main approach roads and the main streets through the village were fairly free of litter. However, there was some litter on the minor approach roads, e.g. to Moghaun Fort and along the old creamery and in the open spaces in the large residential area off the Ennis Road (Kilnasoolagh Park) and also near the SuperValu store on the same road.

TIDINESS

The village looked very neat and tidy throughout - a result, one would feel, of the on-going maintenance of landscaped and planted areas and open spaces in residential areas.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

In general the presentation of individual residences and houses in estates is good, with some exceptional examples. Some could improve on the maintenance of open spaces, e.g. the Goodwood Estate and in parts of the Kilnasoolagh Estate. The row of houses near the Church is very well-maintained.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

As already referred to, the approach roads into Newmarket-on-Fergus are very good - the landscaping, tree-planting and other improvements together with building or repairing stone walls have been very effective. Whilst the approach roads and main streets are fine, back lanes and side entrances to premises could be improved.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Newmarket-on-Fergus has all the signs of improving its position in the Competition. The work record to-date and the ambitious OBAIR plans for the next five years will greatly enhance the appearance of the village and the construction of the by-pass should solve the traffic problems that exist.