Tidy Towns 1997

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 18-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	31
The Built Environment	40	31	31
Landscaping	40	31	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	19
Litter Control	40	33	34
Tidiness	20	14	13
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	30
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	**300**	**220**	**219**

Feenagh, Co. Limerick

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for a very detailed questionnaire and map, the job of the adjudicator was certainly made that little bit easier in identifying various developments that are ongoing or planned for the future. The committee has succeeded in getting the community on board to support the tidy towns effort. The excellent working relationship that the committee has with Limerick County Council and indeed Telecom Eireann is noted. I would suggest that for next year a simple 3 year work plan be put in place.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Most of the important buildings were presented to a very high standard on adjudication day. As Feenagh is a prosperous farming village, there are a number of farmhouses within the environs, these were presented to an exceptionally high standard. The ivy clad farmhouses on the Charleville and the NCW roads were greatly admired and what was most pleasing was the fact that adjacent yards and boundary walls were clean and tidy. The church which is very much a focal pint in the centre of the village was very well presented if a little bare in terms of landscaping. The two public houses at the NCW end of the village were reasonably presented, both could have benefited from traditional name signs as well as doing away with the obtrusive drinks advertising wall signs. The National School was in excellent condition with lovely shrub and flower beds. The Community Centre (Old School) was in reasonable condition, the parking area was quite weedy. The adjudicator notes that there are plans to refurbish the centre in the future, hopefully the traditional facade will be retained. It was encouraging to see that the P&T building was painted and the adjoining grounds maintained, an example of good co-operation with An Bord Telecom. The Carnegie Free Library, one of a number in County Limerick is a very attractive building and should be preserved accordingly. The Village Inn was in the process of being painted and had a nice wall sign in place. The Central/PO should give consideration to replacing the plastic sign with a more appropriate one. Similarly O'Connor's Butchers should either re vamp its frontage or replace canopy with something more traditional.

LANDSCAPING

As was the case last year the standard in this category is of the highest order, the choice of trees, shrubs and flowers was excellent. The copper beeches with colourful flowers at base on the Newcastle West Road were very much admired. The centre of the village was vibrant with many tubs, hanging baskets and shrub beds. The combination of flowers planted at the base of the timber fence opposite the school and also the feature opposite the newly constructed houses at the other bend of the village were just two examples of prudent planting. The village pump is a very

attractive feature and it is encouraging to note that there are plans in the offing to develop a project around it.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The proposed wildlife project planned by the committee is very welcome and a worthwhile undertaking. The involvement of schoolchildren, teachers and parents is an example of a positive approach and I have no doubts that the end result will enhance the village and its environs in the years to come. Well done for taking on board the suggestion put forward by last years adjudicator.

LITTER CONTROL

There was virtually no litter evident on adjudication day but the bins were rather full .
Overall a good example of litter management, full marks to the committee for initiating a litter awareness programme for the schoolchildren.

TIDINESS

In the majority of villages and towns it is very difficult to ensure a constant high standard in this category. The intentions and the enthusiasm of committees are often not matched by individual residents, there is constant need for encouragement. Feenagh is a neat and tidy village but it does have areas that need to be addressed. The Newcastle West Road is very tidy with weeds under control and directional, name and speed signs clearly visible and in pristine condition. There were some area's of dereliction which take a way from the overall appearance of the Village, in fairness to the committee these have been highlighted and are at a stage where an action plan is about to be implemented.

RESIDENTIAL ROADS AND BACK AREAS

The standard this year was excellent, there are some very impressive holdings in the village and its surroundings. What is very noticeable is the condition of farmhouses and adjacent yards and boundary walls The two farmhouses on both the NCW and Charleville Roads have been already mentioned but the newly built houses with pleasant gardens and the traditional cottages with such colourful flower beds and well maintained lawns deserve mention also. Reference was made last year to the weedy boundary walls of some premises but this problem was rectified this year.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Newcastle West road was in tip top condition with verges cut back, signs visible and clean. The unusual stone/wooden seats were greatly admired by the adjudicator as was the skillet pot ! filled with a mass of colourful annuals and perennials. The Charleville Road had its verges cut back appropriately and has a nice attractive planting feature opposite the school. The condition of back and side areas was quite good and once again the committee is active in offering encouragement.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The efforts of the committee to involve all sections of the community is praiseworthy. The results of this type of co-operation are evident all around the village and long may it continue. The committee are intent on tackling the sensitive issues such as dereliction and untidiness. In the long term the main beneficiaries will be the residents themselves. Over the last number of years Feenagh has made great strides in the competition and I have no doubt will again in the future

SECOND ADJUDICATION (12/8/97)

Feenagh appears as a very neatly maintained village. School, church and many premises are presented to a very high order. Some of the trees in the pavement are dead or struggling. Litter control could be a little tighter, the picnic table surrounds at the P/T building had some unwelcome litter. The large pebble dash planters need replanting at this stage.