

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 23-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	30
The Built Environment	40	28	27
Landscaping	40	25	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	26	26
Tidiness	20	12	13
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	25
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	191	188

Feakle, County Clare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for detailed entry form and map. The Feakle Tidy Towns Committee are to be congratulated on the achievements accomplished during the year. We would suggest that an actual plan (3/4 pages) now be drawn up with objectives and targets, with action items opposite and a time scale put on this. We note your on-going liaison with Clare County Council, FAS, Telecom and the ESB in regard to different aspects of your projects. Of course, it is also imperative that all the local community be involved and that this should be on a year round basis as work should not be left to commence until May. Also, we would recommend that when you receive the Adjudicators report that work commence on the suggestions made therein. For instance it was noted this year that the very rusty and decrepit chair and seat on the Limerick road still had not been removed although this was mentioned in the Adjudicator's report last year.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The demolition of the building near Smyths Village Hotel is welcome. The Hotel itself is well maintained and we noted the repaired wall at the entrance. Also there were fence posts in a pile opposite the Hotel, no doubt indicating that a new fence is to be erected here. In the town, the Church and Church Hall are neat and well presented but the gates and railings by the Church need repainting. The telephone box is still a problem but we note your discussions with Telecom and the local community on this issue. As in most towns, there are some derelict houses which should be targeted for attention. Again we would mention the little stone building opposite the entrance to the East Clare Way. Even if this cannot be fully developed it would improve with some planting such as hanging baskets. As mentioned last year, those premises with plastic signage should be encouraged to replace same with signs that would be more in keeping with the town. The Rent an Irish Cottage houses and surrounds were very well maintained and the grounds nicely planted. However, there appears to be quite a gully or pothole at the entrance gate. The GAA hall was being painted on the day of adjudication and looked very well - perhaps some planting of shrubs could be encouraged here for year round colour. The School is well maintained and the new wall down the side road is impressive. Perhaps a pathway along here could now be installed. The Post Office and the Smyths shop are well presented as, indeed, are most of the business premises in the town.

LANDSCAPING

As the weather has been very bad so far this year no doubt it has hindered your landscaping plans - hopefully '99 will not prove so inclement. The planted areas near Peppers Bar on the Scarriff

approach road were pleasant and well maintained. The planting and new seating near the telephone box are good but the flower beds needed weeding. Window boxes provided by businesses and householders throughout the village are to be commended. The two tubs containing trees on the way to the Rent an Irish Cottage scheme were painted but the tub containing flowers outside the school needed painting. The planting opposite the School and on the road up to the Rent an Irish Cottage Scheme were pleasant - ensure that seats are well maintained and painted.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

We look forward to seeing the progress regarding the work on local wildlife habitats being carried out by the local walks group. Perhaps some berryed bushes could be planted throughout the village to assist birdlife in the winter and shrubs such as buddleia attract butterflies.

LITTER CONTROL

There was very little litter in evidence on the day of adjudication. It is good to hear that the local schoolchildren are so involved in this area, also that more bins have been ordered. No doubt these are more of the green bins seen in the town - we presume that all the old bins will be replaced by these in time. There was some litter (can and crisp bags) at the water feature which is unfortunate as this is a very worthwhile development - could it be extended to the other side of the road ?

TIDINESS

Unfortunately this is rather a black spot category for Feakle. Three main areas have been identified as a problem and nothing has been done to solve these since last year. Of course, this will involve the co-operation of those who own the properties. One area is the depot next to Smyths shop. On the day of adjudication there were old refrigeration units, pallets, cardboard boxes and plastic bags strewn around here. As mentioned, the shop next door is well decorated with plant boxes outside but this good work is totally negated by the next door premises. The second area identified last year is the very untidy yard on the way down from the RIC cottages and thirdly the entrance to the East Clare Way. Also, the area at the side of Smyths Village Hotel, in view of the public as they turn their cars, was quite untidy and clothing was also spread on bushes here.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Most residential properties are very well kept in and around Feakle and the housing estate past the GAA hall is very well maintained including the green area at the end which has been nicely planted. However, some surround walls here do need attention.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The hedges on the approach roads were well cut and the work done

on the Graveyard was noted. Signage is good throughout. Some owners should be encouraged to replace broken gates.

GENERAL IMPRESSION.

The new Committee has made an impact on the town in its first year and we look forward to seeing further progress in the years ahead. Feakle has the potential to become even more attractive and to do well in this competition.