

*"Caring for our environment"*

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

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 01-07-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	30
The Built Environment	40	28	27
Landscaping	40	32	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	15
Litter Control	40	26	24
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	19	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	23
General Impression	10	6	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>190</b>

## **Newmarket on Fergus, County Clare**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

The submission this year did not match those of previous years, but cognisance is taken of plans already submitted. You have left a lot of gaps in the entry form and this may leave the adjudicator without a full picture of your progress. There is no doubt but the work of Obair down through the years is having a continued beneficial effect. However, you need to involve as many of the community members as possible to ensure that the work is apparent in all parts of the village. Your strengths are on the main approach roads and in spite of the inordinate amount of traffic the village has to contend with, you are coping well.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Public buildings are presented to a high standard again this year and many have well landscaped environs. For the most part shops are freshly painted and many have further improved with hanging baskets and window boxes. Road signage from the Ballycar approach needs cleaning and also some finger signs at the busy junction. Some corrugated iron gates on the Limerick approach should be replaced in the long-term, as they are out of place at this stretch of road on a busy entrance. The new bilingual sign at the Ballycar junction is excellent - could more of this type be erected? The G.A.A. grounds and club house are well presented with good signage.

### **LANDSCAPING**

You have scored well again under this section this year. Work was in progress during adjudication day and the landscaping on the two main approaches is excellent. The treatment of the flower bed at the Ballycar cross is, as usual well presented. Can you progress to a similar development at the space opposite? Some individuals have excelled in landscaping their own premises and this is commendable. Try and fill in small open spaces with some shrubbery or flower displays if energy permits.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The newly developed village walk from the bridge has potential for the promotion of wildlife in this area. Probably more so in winter, the wildlife here should be plentiful. You might consider planting nesting boxes in strategically located areas along but out of view of the walk itself. Contact your local wildlife specialist and list the wildlife in the area and then set about placing display boards along the walk mentioned above.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

A small litter trap was noticed at the river bridge and this will need daily monitoring - especially during summer months. There is a lot of weed growth on the fast flowing stream and this was being cleaned on adjudication day. The main streets and the area around the church were virtually litter free during inspection.

## **TIDINESS**

In general the village was tidy with most people conscious of keeping their areas neat and clean. The garage on the Ennis approach has worsened environmentally in recent years and it is your biggest single black spot. Well - kept stone walls, free from weed growth in the village make an attractive spectacle and many approach roads are well maintained , also with well kept stone walls.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The small estate near the church is an example for others to pursue and projects a welcome caring image for this area. Some individual houses are excellent and add to the neat appearance. Some estates have potential for improvement and this extends to boundary walls in particular. As a committee you should encourage greater participation from the residents, as the competition is based on community effort.

## **ROADS, STREETS, AND BACK AREAS**

This is not a particular problem in the village and the design of houses is such that most back areas are not very visible from the main streets in particular. However, now that you have developed a new walk, you will notice that many back areas are open to view and owners should be encouraged to keep them to a high standard. The approach from the Super Valu Store is somewhat marred by the appearance of what appears to be an old Creamery. Could any progress be applied here for '99?

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

You have done well again this year and the village is maintaining its attractive appearance. The demand on labour for grass cutting and treatment of flower displays is acknowledged and your efforts in this respect are commendable. Well done.