

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 15-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	30
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	34	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	25	26
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	20	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	25
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	201	196

Newmarket On Fergus, County Clare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Newmarket On Fergus is welcome to the 1999 Tidy Towns Competition. It is good to note the practical assistance received from the local community and the monies raised by the golf classic, poker classic, church gate collection and local donations. Well done also on your liaison with Clare County Council, FAS and the NRB. Being located on the N18 between Ennis and Limerick must make your work extremely difficult due to the constant flow of heavy traffic through the village. This was a problem even for adjudication. Well done on a fine achievement under such circumstances.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The church looks quite stunning with its unique architecture and beautifully landscaped grounds and carparking area. The removal of telegraph poles here will improve its setting. The majority of buildings are very well presented, nicely painted and with good signage. Both the Handball Club and the Temperance Hall could be painted to freshen their appearance. The property located between the County Inn and Varden's Pharmacy appears to be vacant although its roof has been recently refurbished. It is hoped that this important building will soon be redeveloped and presented to a high standard. The school grounds located across from the SuperValu property look well as does the building itself, however the gates here need to be refurbished.

LANDSCAPING

The entrance to the village from the Clare Road looks quite magnificent with its stand of semi-mature trees, its colourful display of roses and its neatly trimmed grass verge. Nameplates look well also together with stone walls. Shrub beds are well established. The splashes of yellow of the St. John's Wort between the evergreens on the Limerick entrance give a gentle relief to their dark colour. Flower displays at the entrance from the Sixmilebridge Road are quite stunning also.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The riverside walk looks enticing from the bridge. The high boundary wall of the sports grounds needs to be cleaned or repainted. Don't forget to send in details of your activities under this heading, particularly the project noted in your application by the river walk. Work accomplished at the graveyard at Killnasoolagh Church together with the restoration of headstones has been noted.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control is quite good throughout with some minor failures at the Limerick end of the town. Some litter was noted on the Quin road near the junction with Sixmilebridge. A light scattering of litter was noted throughout the town and in particular around Varden's Pharmacy in the carparking area. We note with interest that extra bins have been provided and that there is a litter clean up three times a week. This might need to be carried out more frequently to achieve greater litter control.

TIDINESS

Well done on the removal of derelict sheds! A few sporadic outbreaks of weed growth were noted, in particular around the seat at the telephone kiosk, and at the top of the road leading to Killnasoolagh church. An overgrown site has also been noted on this road. Weed growth has also been noted along the kerb of the footpath out the Killnasoolagh road. What appears to be fine stretches of limestone kerbing along the footpath out this road should be highlighted and featured as an attractive element of the village.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The entrance to Avondale residential development is attractively marked by stunning flower displays and neat grassed areas. Flower displays to the roadside of the residential development at the junction with the Carriggoran Road are quite magnificent. Two cottages across from Goodwood Estate need to be whitewashed. The Goodwood Estate is very well presented in all respects. The terrace of dwellings opposite the Hayes Shop are nicely painted and well presented in the most part. Another cottage located near the Hayes Shop could be cleaned or repainted. The residential developments off the road to Killnasoolagh Church near the junction with the main street are reasonably well presented but again weed growth should be kept in check.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The church carpark looks well. The roadside verges on the Sixmilebridge entrance were neatly presented and less formal than entrances along the N18. The new stone work at the junction of the Sixmilebridge and Quin roads looks exceptionally well. The Quin road was less well presented than others in that it was quite overgrown. Some thought might be given to revealing some sections of the stretches of stone wall along this road. The wirescape in the village is quite visually obtrusive, particularly in the centre of the village. No doubt you have approached the relevant bodies regarding its removal and ducting. The stretches of stone wall leading in from the church at Killnasoolagh should be revealed in parts and highlighted. A new stretch of footpath near the junction with the main street has been noted.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Newmarket-On-Fergus looks superb on first acquaintance and there are no major disappointments on closer inspection.