

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **FERMOY**
County : **CORK**
Category : **E**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 27-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	30
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	30	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	28	22
Tidiness	20	12	13
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	21
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	200	188

Fermoy, County Cork

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your excellent maps, information, Fermoy Development Plan 1998 and Litter Management Plan, which were very helpful on the day of adjudication. This is very solid and comprehensive information, which you should use as a basis for a 3/5 year Action Plan for the town. The level of structure, consultation and co-ordination is a good blue-print for other towns to adopt. The public, private, youth and parent partnership is the ideal situation. The 'Fermoy becoming a Tidier Town' Committee are to be congratulated on the progress made.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

There appears to be a good system of building rejuvenation judging by the level of reconstruction underway in the town. The buildings mentioned in last year's report continue to look well, Gael Scoil de hIde would need the paint work on its sign to be refreshed. Fermoy appears to have good quality traditional style shop fronts, this is good, as plastic signage is not appropriate. Some public houses still continue to use plastic drinks signs, which is a pity. The Credit Union building and Berminghams Pharmacy are nice frontages. Some comments made in last year's report would apply again particularly in relation to the Library Building, which needs to be painted, and similarly to the Courthouse. It has a fine floral display but its paint work needs to be refreshed; I note your plans to refurbish it. The fire station also needs painting. The Old Railway Station building would be beautiful if developed. The Schools are very well maintained, the Loreto convent, Scoil Mhuire and Colaiste an Chraoibhin looked very well. It is good to see infill housing planned for the Dublin road, which forms part of your Fermoy Development Plan 1998. The Old Mill Building on Mill road is commended.

LANDSCAPING

The town park continues to be an idyllic haven from the hustle and bustle caused by traffic in the main part of town. The parks location so close to town and adjacent to the river is very strategic. The level of care for the grass and shrub bed area is highly commended. Access to the park is also disabled friendly. There are also very good pockets of landscaping around the town and on approach roads, namely near the Church of Ireland, at the junction of Emmet St. and Clancy St. The Barnane walk is very nice and is a good lead on from the promenade walk. I note your plans to develop the Barnane walk further and these are welcomed. The planting at the entrance to Beechfield Estate is very good and gives a good lift to this approach.

The landscaping at Liam Mc Gearailt Place and at White Wall will enhance these areas when complete.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Fermoy is fortunate to be in an area so rich in Wildlife and Natural Amenities including the famous River Blackwater. The challenge for the Committee is to bring the information to the fore. An Environmental Programme would be a good idea. This could be an initiative under taken by youth or school groups. The Wildlife and Natural Amenities section of the 'Tidy Towns Handbook' gives very good advice on how to proceed, it breaks the project into 5 categories, Habitat Survey, Developing a Management Plan, Access and Community Involvement, Interpretation and Carrying out the work. The town park and the Barnane walk are excellent natural amenities. The Knockannig Reservoir project sounds like a wonderful amenity also. The ducks on the river also give an air of activity in this area. The map board for the 'Blackwater Way' Walking Route is very informative.

LITTER CONTROL

Fermoy UDC deserve the highest commendation on the plan prepared entitled 'Action Against Litter' litter management plan. This is a most comprehensive and structured approach, the partnership between public, private, parents and youth in the town is a credit to all concerned. The results of this structured approach has yielded dividends, credit must also go the litter warden. The reduction of plastic bag usage is also applauded. The plan to replace existing litterbins is a good one, as there are number of different types of bins and a more uniform approach would be better. One problem would appear to be cigarette ends on the street, this is possibly the next area to tackle. Keep up your excellent awareness campaign.

TIDINESS

The level of tidiness in Fermoy is good. The metal at the workshop on Mill Road is still a detraction to this area and is not conducive to its setting. Could this area be screened in any way? There is some graffiti on the public toilets, which would need to be removed. Another small point is weed growth on the old military gate entrance to the GAA grounds. The recycling facilities are well kept. The 'bring site' in the Town Park is a contributing factor to Fermoy being so tidy.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Residential housing is of a very high standard, with a great degree of care being exercised in terms of paintwork, garden and hedge maintenance. Many areas are making

great strides in this category, with Liam MacGearailt Place embarking on a very nice landscaping project. Beech Field Estate have done a good job as have Sean O'Brien Estate, Uplands Estate and Wolfe Tone Park, who have put in a lot of work. Cluainn Dara sheltered housing and Corrin View look very well cared for and the town houses at Ard Abhainn have made a nice renovation of this building. The Fermoy Image Improvement Group are to be complimented along with Fermoy Residents and Residents Associations.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

There is some weed growth in the wall on the Mallow approach, the road and footpath works will improve the Cork road, the grass margins should be cut back when this is complete. The Dublin road had some kerbside weed, which should be addressed. Kent Street and Airm Mic Gearailt Street are still leading the way in terms of floral decoration, their example should be followed. The new car park at Mill Island will be a good addition and may reduce on street parking. The landscaped banked area at the back of the car park near the library would be greatly enhanced with development. The floodlighting of Fermoy Bridge would generate a beautiful evening scene as would the creation of an opening in the bridge parapet to give drivers in vehicles a better appreciation of the Blackwater River.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Fermoy suffers as many towns do from traffic congestion. The proliferation of cars and heavy traffic, detract substantially from the visitor experience. The Barnane walk should be highlighted in a more visible fashion to visitors to the town. A good co-ordinated approach appears to be being followed by the various strands of the Community in Fermoy, Keep up the good work.