

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 17-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27	28
The Built Environment	40	30	30
Landscaping	40	34	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	26	25
Tidiness	20	15	14
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	29
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	204	201

Newmarket-on-Fergus, Co.Clare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The Newmarket on Fergus Committee obviously works hard – your fundraising events alone are part of this commitment. No doubt, as well as raising monies for your work these events also make the wider community aware of your efforts. Thank you for the well completed entry form, map and photos. However, as indicated in last year's report, it is now a requirement of the competition that you also submit a three year plan. This can be one page – ; setting out your objectives, the time scale involved and how you mean to implement this plan. The map enclosed was too wide ranging, what is needed is a sketch map of the core area in Newmarket-on-Fergus so that places such as Ballycar Cross, mentioned on the entry form, are easily identifiable. This, and the three year plan, would be of great assistance to the adjudicator.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Most buildings in Newmarket on Fergus are well maintained and some especially noted were: - the Church and Obair offices together with business premises along this street. However, the restaurant opposite the Tradaree Arms needed repainting and there were weeds growing from the chutes here and also on the house next door. On the Ennis road, Rose Cottage was looking well – the thatch had been worked on – however, the distinctive pink and white striped walls in the car park needed repainting. The School on this road was also looking well and the grass was being mown here on the day of adjudication. There are a number of good stone walls throughout the village but ivy needs to be removed from these in certain areas on Church road (opposite the Goodwood Estate entrance) and also on the Ennis road.

LANDSCAPING

A number of areas throughout the village have been landscaped to a high standard and these include Ballycar Cross, the tree planting and raised beds on the Ennis Road and around the Church – at the Church it was noted that the gardens of the houses adjoining the car park blend in very nicely with the landscaping already undertaken. Further out on Church road at the T junction the planting was noted, however, this was a little overgrown. The weather coming up to adjudication this year was very poor and this was taken into consideration. At the Avondale Estate entrance the litter bins used as flower containers should be replaced by wooden, terra cotta or stone containers. The major feature of the village is the River Park. Situated on both sides of the river this is a haven of peace. It is good to see that the residents of the new house being built in the Park, obviously co-operate with your efforts. We noted that there is no seating – perhaps this is because of possible vandalism. However, if vandal proof seating could be found, it would be good that people could sit and savour the ambience of the Park. The part of the Park that contains the Millennium Stone and surrounding walkways the other side of the bridge is impressive. We would suggest that the date be put on or

nearby the Millennium Stone to emphasise that it was put there to mark the start of a new Millennium. This area of the Park is at present in a state of development – we would suggest that any planting here is of native species with appropriate wild flowers such as white daisies, flag irises, cowslips and poppies.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The planting already undertaken contributes in this regard and we note that you are planning to make the River Park into a wildlife park.

LITTER CONTROL

There was little evidence of litter throughout the village and litter bins were placed in strategic positions. There was some litter in the stream in the Park and a strategy would need to be put in place to ensure that this does not happen on a regular basis.

TIDINESS

The village was mostly neat and tidy throughout with just a few kerbside weeds on Church road.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Housing estates and private houses throughout Newmarket on Fergus are contributing to the Tidy Towns efforts. Houses in Estates such as Goodwood Estate, Glencragga Estate and Avondale are well maintained and the green areas well landscaped.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Because of the recent by-passing of Newmarket on Fergus, considerable work has been undertaken to the road systems around the village. A number of rough verges throughout were noted – no doubt, the Committee will be liaising with Clare County Council on these matters. Two Welcome signs were noted on some entrances – whilst a welcome is always good, too many signs spoil the impact of this greeting.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The potential of Newmarket on Fergus in this competition should now be enhanced in view of the completion of the construction work for the by-pass and the nearing completion of the River Park. Much good work has been undertaken over the years and we look forward to seeing you progress further in the future.