

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **FERBANE**  
County : **OFFALY**  
Category : **C**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 15-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27	26
The Built Environment	40	27	27
Landscaping	40	30	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	26	25
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	23	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	23
General Impression	10	7	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>189</b>

## **Ferbane, County Offaly**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Ferbane is welcome to the 2002 Tidy Towns Competition. Congratulations on your five year development plan, which made impressive reading and exhibits a focused and determined approach to the development of the town to the benefit of all Ferbane's inhabitants and visitors. We wish you all the best in achieving your goals and look forward to many repeat visits to chart Ferbane's progress. Well done.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The church and grounds on the Belmont road are nicely kept and the Brosna Press opposite looks exceptionally well. The Cosy Bar is nicely painted, Hennessy's looks quite well but could be cleaned up a little bit. The mock tiling façade on Caroline's is inappropriate and there are far too many posters in the window. Kenny's Foodstore plastic, neon sign should be removed, along with the 'Bar' and 'HB' signs on this façade, that of Browne Butchers, the 'Guinness' signs of Glennons Bar and the old neon 'Calor Kosangas' and 'Stationary Motor Accessories' signs of the P.J. Egan property. Quite a few premises have no signs at all, including the recently renovated Maddens property, which looks attractive. A number of buildings in the town could be upgraded including the P.J. Egan property, Phibbs, the Garda Station and Ulster Bank. The Video Library and adjoining property, adjacent to the Top garage, are in a terrible condition and detract greatly from the appearance of this entrance to the town.

The Fire Station looks well and the car park looks terrific with its clearly marked out spaces and landscaping. This area and adjoining recycling point are clean and tidy. The Top garage is quite tidy but could be freshened up a little and some planting here could soften the concrete effect of the forecourt. The school opposite the P.J. Kenaghan looks fine but the boundary wall here urgently needs cleaning and/or painting as do the security barriers in front. The Ferbane Community College looks quite well and the grounds are nicely maintained. The large grey boundary wall adjoining the Gallen Priory Nursing and Retirement Home should be painted. The Maidin Gheal Restaurant and Coffee Shop is a attractively presented building as is The Medical Hall Pharmacy.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Planting around the nameplate on the Athlone Road is colourful and there is nice young planting entering the village. The abundant landscaping to the car park of the Heritage Centre is impressive and finishes this area beautifully.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Your new picnic table and seating at the bridge is admirable. Perhaps in time you could feature some planting here, with a sign indicating the wildlife value of the River and

other areas around the town. We note your plans to undertake a wildlife audit for the protection and enhancement of many of Ferbane's potential wildlife amenity areas and look forward to learning the results.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

The many litter bins along the main street were in good condition and the main street was virtually litter free, which is a huge achievement for a street as busy as this. Congratulations. There was a small amount of litter at the Top garage and at the entrance to Gallen Priory View residential estate, but this is a good standard under this heading, well done!

## **TIDINESS**

There are quite a lot of weedy areas in the town, for example outside a boundary wall opposite the Health Centre. The gravelled lay-by areas just before the 30 mph signs were quite untidy and need to be swept. The area to the side of the Ferbane Motor Parts should have the mounds of gravel removed and could be tidier. The Offaly County Council Ferbane Area office is nicely painted, but the carpark is weedy and needs a good sweeping.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

A lot of residential boundary walls on the Athlone approach could be upgraded. There are some large open spaces on this entrance, presumably these are residential sites. They should be kept cut back and tidy until redevelopment or at least sown with wild flower seeds. There is some nice planting at the Gallen Priory View but both the concrete and wooden fencing outside this residential estate needs to be fixed in some places and painted to freshen. The grassed areas were being cut during adjudication. There are some nicely maintained houses and gardens in this estate but some needed attention including one corner site which is full of pallets. The grey concrete fencing around the large green open space could be painted and some of the grass could be re-seeded here. A small stretch of footpath in this estate is chipped and broken. Some back areas to houses look unsightly with corrugated gates and drab walls and weedy concrete open spaces, which could benefit from landscaping. Delvin Park has nice seating and good namestone with planting on the entrance. The mature tree planting throughout is impressive. Houses here in general are very well maintained with only one or two exceptions and a few boundary walls in need of attention. The good stone wall, seating and litter bin at the rear of this estate is admirable. The overgrown green open spaces, and in particular the entrance, of the new Ballyvora Grove development could be better maintained, even whilst work is in progress. There is again a good standard of presentation of St. Cynocks Terrace, which looks well with its mature planting and well maintained green open space.

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

The entrance from the Athlone road is a bit overgrown, with untidy footpaths and a mound of rubble outside the boundary of the house on the left on entering. There are good stone walls here however. The 30 mph speed limit signs here should be cleaned, in addition to the nameplate. The same point can be made for the old water pump opposite the Delvin Park residential estate. There is some fine seating outside of St. Mary's Parochial Hall, the sign for which needs to be fixed, but it is well painted as is the adjoining Library, which also features nice planting. There is more fine seating outside the school with additional bins. Parking spaces outside this school could be refurbished. The area just before and after the nameplate on the Cloghan road is a bit overgrown and needs to be cut back and weeded but there are some nice trees planted. A little more effort here would pay dividends. The immediate entrance here on the Cloghan Road is quite tidy, the signs are clean and there is some nice planting.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The overall impression of Ferbane is of a busy, interesting town with a lot of character. The on-going improvements are having a dramatic impact and we look forward to the further implementation of your development plan. Well done to everyone concerned. A fine effort.