

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Feakle**

Ref: **421**

County: **Clare**

Mark: **206**

Category: **A**

Date: **27/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	33
The Built Environment	40	30	29
Landscaping	40	29	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	30	29
Tidiness	20	9	12
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	26
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	206	205

Overall Developmental Approach:

The Feakle Tidy Towns Committee continue to do good work, which will be mentioned throughout this report. The village is a charming one and as you state "the cultural capital of East Clare" and deserves to reach its full potential. However, a number of untidy areas continue to persist each year and if you are to progress further some mechanism must be put in place in order to get some movement in respect of these problems which are losing you marks. In villages that do well in the Tidy Towns Competition everybody in the area assists with the effort – it cannot be left to the Committee alone. Strategies to endeavour to combat these problems and motivate the community to a greater extent should be built into your five year plan.

The Built Environment:

Most business premises in the town are well presented in an appropriate manner for a rural village such as Feakle. However, the derelict Hotel site is an obtrusive problem in the Built category. It does not seem that this will be rebuilt in the short term and, of course, there is nothing the

Committee can do about this. However, the whole area of the entrance and roadway leading up to it are overgrown and unsightly and these could be tidied up. The new stone walls were noted by Smyth's bridge and also near the Graveyard. The Church and Post Office were well presented, as was the School with its imaginative planting of sweet pea. The building of the GAA clubhouse was well painted but, as previously mentioned on a number of occasions, the grounds here need some landscaping.

Landscaping:

The planted areas around the village were admired, especially the areas at the Square and by the riverside. Tubs and hanging baskets also contributed greatly in this category.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your local education initiative in conjunction with Clare County Council to advise residents/farmers re wildlife and natural habitat preservation is commendable.

Litter Control:

Only a small amount of litter was to be seen – well done. Litter bins were well placed.

Tidiness:

Unfortunately, the tidiness category is your worst area. As mentioned, there are a number of very poor areas around the village which need to be addressed. These are: - untidy yard opposite riverside development; another untidy yard on the left on the way to the RIC cottages; the Hotel site; the area beside C.R Smyth General Merchants and also the ground next to the graveyard which seems to be permanent storage area for heaps of gravel. It was noted that a public footpath, where tubs of plants had been sited on the left on the way up to the RIC cottages, had been commandeered by a householder building a wall at the opposite side of the road. This pathway was strewn with builders materials and a concrete mixer which made passageway impossible and which also was making the pathway uneven with the remains of concrete which had set – apparently this building work had been in progress for some time.

Residential Areas:

Individual houses and those in the housing estate were well maintained with good use of colour throughout.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Resurfacing was noted on the Tuamgraney approach and on the loop road near the Post Office. The new lighting at the square was admired. Signage was mostly well maintained.

General Impression:

A village that is progressing steadily, outside of the problems re tidiness. Do persevere and keep up your good work.