

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Fermoy**

Ref: **538**

County: **Cork North**

Mark: **224**

Category: **D**

Date: **23/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	40
The Built Environment	40	30	29
Landscaping	40	33	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	21
Litter Control	40	31	29
Tidiness	20	15	13
Residential Areas	30	25	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	21
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	224	216

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for the very comprehensive map which marked the various items of interest in the town. This was very helpful at adjudication. The notes supplied to supplement the information in the application form were also a great help. The document "An Improvement Strategy" was not included this year. Including this would be helpful, as it would give an indication of progress from year by year. The committee of ten members is small for such a large town and a recruitment drive may be a good idea at this stage. Working closely with the Fermoy Town Council, business groups and residents associations helps to broaden the base of activity and sources of input and would further strengthen the committee.

The Built Environment:

The shops and business premises form a very important part of the impression given in Fermoy. The range of well presented shops along the main streets gives a colourful and compact town centre. Most premises maintain a very high standard of décor. Some updating of painting and presentation is always needed to keep the standard high. Protruding plastic signs have decreased considerably over the years and this is welcome. Public buildings form an attractive part of Fermoy. Churches and schools look well. The new fire station is nicely positioned, contrasting well with older buildings, such as the court house and Kneller Villas. The contrast is accentuated by the large Supervalu supermarket not too far away. The John Anderson Monument is very well located and forms a nice entry to the park. The statues are also in a very imposing position as they look down towards the

bridge. The area of the livestock marts is a little grey. The Bupa building is well presented. The old military gates form a part of the history of the town. The theatre is nicely placed by the riverside.

Landscaping:

The town park forms the most significant landscape area of the town. The park is very well maintained and the standard of grass care and flower borders make this very impressive strolling grounds. The children's play area is comprehensive. Trees form a good framework within the park and provide a good green space so central to the town. The large landscaped roadside area near the Texaco garage on the Cork Road is a major venture showing interesting initiative. The Mill Road Ploemeor Carpark has a good tree boundary. Looking at the town from the higher areas shows just how green there is within town with so many trees. Schools, with their large grounds, offer good potential for further tree planting to continue this green look. Trees of the large types such as Ash, Sycamore and Chestnut and Lime can be accommodated in such sites and form a good fabric of greenery. Planting for the next two generations needs to be considered. The pond area consists of well-mown grass and railings. It was noted that there is some digging work there at present. This must have great potential. Greens of housing estates play a very significant role in the overall landscape of the town and the work of the council and local residents committees contribute well in this regard. The greens to the front of St. Josephs and the estate at Beechfield look especially well.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The riverside walks offer a beautiful opportunity for leisurely strolling and observation of wildlife. Many people were enjoying this walk on the beautiful summer evening on which adjudication took place. Information boards help to create interest as well as providing answers to those with a keen interest in wildlife.

Litter Control:

The initiatives that have been undertaken in Fermoy have helped generate and maintain public awareness of litter control, and the fruits of this were obvious, particularly in the main streets. Some small amounts of litter were noted on the path entry to the park and on some areas of the streets. Constant vigilance is needed in this regard. Your successes in litter free competitions are worthy of credit.

Tidiness:

Generally, Fermoy is a very tidy place. This is helped by the orderly layout of the town and the well maintained streets and car parking areas. The new building taking place in various places causes some disruption however this should only be temporary. However, it is important that sites are finished off well and reinstated before builders and developers leave and the Tidy Towns committee should keep a watchful eye on this. Protruding shop signs and billboard signs, evident on entry to certain areas, should also be examined to assess their potential negative impact on the town's appearance and determine whether they are needed at all.

Residential Areas:

It is marvelous to see so many residential properties on the streets of Fermoy. This gives great life to the town and maintains its vibrancy. There are many housing estates and the standards of maintenance of homes and gardens is high. Every green area within or at the entrance to a housing estate offers an opportunity to give a good impression and to form a pleasant immediate environment for the residents. Tree planting is very important in greens. Trees we enjoy today were most likely planted by past generations who could never have hoped to see them reach maturity – we owe a similar legacy to the next two generations. The larger trees are unsuitable for most small gardens but they can find a home on open greens. The small square at Wolf Tone Park is attractively

planted and maintained. Liam MacGearailt Place, St. Joseph's and Beechfield estate all looked well.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

There is a good standard of roads presentation approaching the town. The Dublin and Cork roads are particularly well marked and the side areas are well cared for. Attention to advertising and signage may need some study. Grass verges and borders by the roadsides look well cared for.

General Impression:

Fermoy is a very attractive town to visit. The buildings and layout of the streets make for a very compact town. Working with the local council is helpful in achieving the goals set out. The success of your litter campaigns is noteworthy.