

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ferbane**

Ref: **708**

County: **Offaly**

Mark: **200**

Category: **C**

Date: **04/07/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	27
The Built Environment	40	28	27
Landscaping	40	30	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	27	26
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	23
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	200	192

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for the well completed entry form and other documentation received – this was very helpful on the day of adjudication. A sketch map of the town would also be an advantage. The fact that you involve all the community and also that you liaise with so many statutory bodies and groups is commendable. The partnership approach is the best way to achieve your aims and it was clear that much good work has been undertaken in Ferbane to date.

The Built Environment:

Firstly, we must mention the new Arts & Heritage Centre at the Fairgreen. This is a very attractive building and no doubt will be a tremendous asset to the Community. Many other buildings in Ferbane were very well presented including the church and the old parochial house nearby, the two schools, the Ulster Bank and the post office, to mention just a few. However, there is problem in the town with a number of vacant and derelict sites and it is good to note that an audit of these has taken place and that solutions to the problem are being sought.

Landscaping:

The planted areas around the town and on the approach roads were noted and admired. In fact, work was taking place on the approach road from Cloghan on the day of adjudication. The tree

planting on the Athlone Road adds character to this approach. We note that you plan to continue to develop the town park as a focal point.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You are rich in this category by having the River Brosna and the Grand Canal adjacent. We note that habitats will be protected in both these areas as part of new walking routes being designed.

Litter Control:

There was only a little litter to be seen in Ferbane and this is an achievement in view of the fact that it is a busy town with much through traffic. The "litter busters" campaign and the involvement of transition year students from St. Saran's School are obviously proving effective. However, constant vigilance is necessary under this category.

Tidiness:

Mostly the town presented a pleasant and tidy appearance and kerbs were weedfree throughout. There were no weeds also near the entrance to the sports grounds on the Tullamore Road. However, the large gravel area in front of these grounds had a rather untidy aspect. Some planting of trees or provision of containers could enhance this roadside space.

Residential Areas:

Individual private houses and also the housing estates in and around Ferbane are contributing to the Tidy Towns effort. The surround walls and set-back areas were mostly maintained to a high standard except in the case of some new houses and no doubt these will also finish off their premises to the same high standard.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Signage throughout Ferbane was mostly well presented and the wide main street and approach roads quite well maintained. Would it be possible to replace the rather dangerous looking "stepping stones" outside private houses on the Tullamore approach with a more regular footpath?.

General Impression:

Ferbane is a town with potential and no doubt the hard working committee of fourteen will continue to strive to maximise this potential in the years ahead.