

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Feakle**

Ref: **407**

County: **Clare**

Mark: **209**

Category: **A**

Date: **01/07/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	34
The Built Environment	40	31	30
Landscaping	40	30	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	18
Litter Control	40	31	30
Tidiness	20	8	9
Residential Areas	30	26	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	26
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	209	206

Overall Developmental Approach:

Reading through your application form it was noted that you work in co-operation with a number of bodies such as FAS and the Clare County Council and that Feakle has been approved for a Village Renewal Scheme. That is good news. However, it is just as important that the entire community work with you. You mention a Parish Newsletter – many Tidy Towns centres publish the annual Tidy Towns report (or parts thereof) in their Parish Newsletter and this may be another way to communicate your endeavours to everyone in Feakle. We would also suggest that a plan or work programme be drawn up for the next 3/5 years in order to focus your efforts. This need not be based on large new projects but on simple items which need rectifying, some of which will be mentioned in this report.

The Built Environment:

Most business premises in Feakle were well presented with a few exceptions – those that stood out as being particularly pleasing were the Post Office and the Hostel with its good use of colour. The natural stone buildings throughout the village are appropriate in this setting. The buildings remaining at the Village Hotel site are a problem now for some time. Are there any plans in connection with same? Peppers Bar looked well on the day of adjudication. The School was well maintained and again, whilst the GAA club house was nicely painted, the surrounds here were very

poor – for such a community based organisation the lack of action here over a number of years is surprising. It was noted that the old creamery next to Smyths shop was for sale. Hopefully the purchasers will improve this site. The Church looked well but the gate and railings here needed to be painted. Some attractive stone walls are to be seen throughout the village and approaches. The Rent an Irish Cottage scheme was, as usual, well maintained and nicely planted.

Landscaping:

The planted area at the Square was looking extremely well with the flower beds, wooden seating and picnic area, tourism informational display boards and appropriate lighting. Other planted areas such as .by the river and opposite the School were also admired. Tubs of flowers, window boxes and hanging baskets throughout also added colour and life to the village. The gardens at some private houses were exceptional. The tree planting undertaken on the way to the RIC cottages is now maturing nicely and will be legacy for future generations.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

We note from your application that care is being taken not to cut hedges during the bird breeding season. However, where there are paths next to hedges these must be trimmed and this work was taking place on the road to the Post Office on the day of adjudication. Having said that, the fact that natural foliage/flowers such as elderflowers appear in the village centre in a compatible manner is attractive.

Litter Control:

There was no litter to be seen throughout the village and in the housing estate – well done. However, there was a sprinkling on the road to the old Hotel.

Tidiness:

Poor areas of untidiness were highlighted in last years report and unfortunately, in the main these have not gone away: - untidy yard opposite riverside development; another untidy yard on the left on the way to the RIC cottages; the area beside C.R. Smyth General Merchants and also the ground next to the graveyard which seems to be a permanent storage area for heaps of gravel and other debris. As Feakle progresses in the Tidy Towns Competition these areas stand out more and more and, unfortunately, are losing you marks.

Residential Areas:

Private houses in and around the village and on approach roads all contribute to your efforts, some with exceptional gardens as mentioned previously. The housing estate is a credit to Feakle and one of the best maintained seen – congratulations to all concerned.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Road surfaces were mixed – good in some places and poor in others. Roadside verges also needed attention in places. Grass banks should be trimmed within the speed limits. Directional signage was maintained well.

General Impression:

Feakle is a charming country village noted for its traditional music and welcome for visitors. We know that you will continue the work which you have commenced to endeavour to make it the best place it can be and wish you well in your endeavours.