

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Newmarket-On-Fergus**

Ref: **485**

County: **Clare**

Mark: **212**

Category: **C**

Date: **10/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	26
The Built Environment	40	31	30
Landscaping	40	36	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	16
Litter Control	40	28	27
Tidiness	20	17	16
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	212	207

Overall Developmental Approach:

Over the years the Newmarket-on-Fergus Tidy Towns Committee has undertaken tremendous work in and around the town and continues to do so. The situation in Newmarket-on-Fergus has now altered in that the large amount of traffic passing through the town has been diverted. This new situation provides opportunities and challenges for the Committee in the years ahead. As mentioned in previous reports it would be essential at this stage to put a simple plan in place in order to focus your efforts. This need only be one page outlining your targets over the next one to three years and how you plan to achieve same.

Thank you for application form and map. However, this map covers too wide an area for the the purpose of the Tidy Towns Competition and we would suggest that a sketch map of the town and surrounds be provided next year.

The Built Environment:

The Church, School and most business premises looked well on the day of adjudication. It was noted that Rose Cottage is still for sale but it was good to note that work was being undertaken on the garden during our visit. The good stone walls throughout the town were also noted and admired.

However, there are still some derelict and vacant premises around the town and a solution to this problem should be sought in the long term.

Landscaping:

Newmarket-on-Fergus stands out in relation to the amount of work undertaken on landscaping, mostly on the approach roads to the town and also around the Church.

The hanging baskets on the Community Hall are a good idea but the planting in these was rather poor - perhaps the dry weather had killed off some flowers. The rose beds were looking well on the day of adjudication and the landscaping on the Ennis Rd up to the Ministers Cross was impressive. Also the planting at the Quin junction.

O'Regan Park on both sides of the river is a wonderful achievement and no doubt a great facility for the townspeople. The wooden signage, border railings and seating are all very appropriate to such a park and blend in well. The park was mostly well maintained but the paths paved areas were quite weedy. The weeds should be removed early in the season and the area sprayed to ensure a weed free appearance.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

O'Regan Park plays a large role under the above headings with its quite natural setting and the two streams running through. In fact, tiny fish were in evidence in these streams denoting a lack of pollution. We noted that extra bird boxes have been placed in the Park.

Your other natural amenity, Kilnasoolagh Lake, also provides a good habitat for wildlife including, as mentioned in your entry, wild ducks and swans.

Litter Control:

In quite a widespread area, there was very little litter to be seen in Newmarket-on-Fergus and obviously your regimen of daily street cleaning and litter bin collections twice a week is paying dividends. However, we did notice a couple of litter bins in need of repainting and there was a cluster of bottles and cans at one point in the stream at O'Regan Park.

Tidiness:

Mostly the kerbs were weed free around the town. Also only a small amount of ivy was noted on the stone walls throughout. Overall the town had a tidy appearance except for the derelict and vacant premises mentioned above.

Residential Areas:

With a couple of exceptions, private residences in and around the town are maintained to a high standard. However, it should be noted by householders that the roadside area outside a residence also needs attention.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Newmarket-on-Fergus has quite disparate areas with the heart of the town in quite a confined space and at least three wide approaches which have been well developed and landscaped. It would be important to make the town core as attractive as the approach roads. Your plan could explore ways to achieve and implement such a scheme perhaps through more tree planting, use of good strong

colour schemes and some refurbishment of shop fronts at present using plastic signage. At the moment as you enter the town centre the first thing you see is a very lopsided pole with a number of signs thereon which gives a bad first impression.

General Impression:

Newmarket -on-Fergus has the potential to do well in this competition. There is a need, now that the major roadworks around the town have been completed, to regroup and decide on the way forward maintaining what has been put in place so successfully.

Attention to detail is one of the keys to success in the Tidy Towns Competition.