

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Fermoy**

Ref: **586**

County: **Cork North**

Mark: **230**

Category: **D**

Date: **01/07/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	40
The Built Environment	40	31	30
Landscaping	40	33	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	21
Litter Control	40	32	31
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	22
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	230	224

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for submission and details of your current work programme and plans for the future. You have an enormous amount of area to cover and it is good that the Town Council is taking a leadership role. Although tidy towns has been established on community endeavour, the way forward is through partnership and co-ordination from all the various relevant agencies. At a glance, one can see the great development that has taken place in and around the town in recent years. The town has a plethora of high quality period buildings of unique character and design. This is one of your strong points and one that should be protected and continued. You are endowed with a majestic river - the banks of which offer great potential for leisure and improved quality of life. With the bypass just a few years away, the future for Fermoy as a vibrant town of quality seems assured.

The Built Environment:

Generous wide streets, well laid out streetscape, attractive public and private buildings, an excellent town park, commercial, educational, sporting and cultural vibrancy combine to make this town an attractive place to live in and to visit. Shopfronts, especially in Patrick Street are colourful and attractive: of note were the following: Barnells Saddlery, Fish Market, Barnes Jeweller, O'Sullivan's, Everything, Fermoy Books, Barry Griffin, and in particular Mellerick's. Public buildings looking well included, An Post, AIB, Credit Union House, Gael Scoil de hÍde, (although we urge you to paint the railings and the boundary walls), Grand Hotel. Buildings that may need special attention include: Old

Wesleyan Church, and Kneeler Villas in Court House Street. Churches, schools and most public buildings looked well on adjudication day.

Landscaping:

There is evidence of good community, individual and Town Council effort in creating great colour throughout the town. The town park is one to be pleased with and offers great walks, playing area and leisure. We liked the John Anderson sculpture at the entrance and commend the sculptor. The Cork road is special and the rich and lavish landscaping has given this approach a very favourable introduction to the town. Well done on the cycle lane: the first seen in a provincial town by this adjudicator. The town car park by the river is excellent and well laid out and the landscaping at the library car park was receiving attention on adjudication day. We commend the work of FÁS on the landscaping schemes in the town. Many commercial operators have gone to great trouble in generating high colour with window boxes and hanging baskets, e.g., McCarthy Insurance Group, and many others. We feel you still have potential for more tree planting in the town: would it be feasible to restrict car parking to one side only in Kent Street and plant trees on the other side?.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You have made progress under this heading and we hope your future plans will further raise your marks. The river and surrounding area offers great scope for the promotion of wildlife and this can extend to the town park and other recreational areas also.

Litter Control:

You have a vast area to keep under control and your efforts outlined AGAINST LITTER is praiseworthy. A walk through all the principal streets and many lanes did not detect any great problem in this area. Litter bins were strategically placed and seemed adequate in numbers. We notice the involvement of various organisations and agencies in your endeavours to curb littering, so well done and keep at it. The recycling centre near the library seems to be in good demand and free from abuse.

Tidiness:

Your problems in this area relate to a number of derelict, or near derelict houses, unoccupied premises in the town centre, and many neglected open spaces. The corner site behind the hotel is due for development and we look forward to its conclusion with an appropriate building. Tidiness extends to side and back lanes and to all commercial outlets in and around the town. Some garages are poor in standard. We notice a good deal of footpath trading, in one case a car trailer for sale taking up the complete width of the path and wonder at the leniency of the council in allowing this. Long term you should aim for all overhead wires to be accommodated underground and get some of the commercial traders to tone down on signage.

Residential Areas:

The lengthy Dublin approach road has a great deal of older houses on each side of the approach. Some of these need improved presentation and many boundary walls are in need of repair. Like all developing towns you are experiencing a building boom and new estates now need to integrate into the town's environs. Well done on your annual competition for estates. Involving the residents will lead to higher standards and also boost your membership for tidy towns.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The condition of streets and for the most part side and back lanes is very good. Patrick Street is special, but the row of period terraced houses in O'Rahilly Row is superb. Many of these have been restored to high quality and we would urge the prohibition of any further pvc windows or doors on

this special row of houses. The row of lime trees opposite complements this setting. Further on we liked the Fitzgerald Monument and the Courthouse: why is there no identity on this building?, also the library is poorly signposted. Some streets are well identified, but many have no nameplate: e.g., Walkers Hill. We suggest you do a survey of streets and lanes without name plates and arrange the erection of appropriate bilingual signs. Also housing estates should be clearly identified.

General Impression:

Despite the continuous light and heavy traffic, the town was attractively presented on adjudication day. It is certainly best to see Fermoy as a pedestrian and enjoy the interesting streets, wonderful river, dividing the town almost equally, and great examples of 19th century architecture. It was a busy Thursday evening in Fermoy during adjudication and yet those enjoying the ambience of the town park seemed oblivious to any pressure. It was an enjoyable experience to visit Fermoy and spend some time among you. We wish you well for 2005.