

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ferbane**

Ref: **488**

County: **Offaly**

Mark: **204**

Category: **C**

Date: **04/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	30
The Built Environment	40	30	28
Landscaping	40	30	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	17
Litter Control	40	27	27
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	24
General Impression	10	6	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>200</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Your submission was most comprehensive and provides a good work programme for your committee. It is practical and realistic and will provide you with a much improved town when implemented. The attached illustrated map was helpful on adjudication day. It is unusual for such a large sub-group to be involved in Tidy Towns and we commend you on such recruitment. Ferbane was undergoing major sewage completion works on adjudication day and perhaps it was your poor luck that the town was in quite a mess as a result of such development. However, this now gives you a great opportunity to benefit from this development and you should now lay immediate emphasis on the development of the Main Street. Your colour scheme should be implemented and new developments can now advance your marks here, if they finish and landscape well.

### The Built Environment:

The town has many fine period buildings and the public buildings are well presented: e.g., schools, church, Heritage Centre, Centra, Bank of Ireland, Hennessy's, and Ryans Drapery, The Heritage Centre need an attractive bilingual name to identify it. Some shop fronts in main street are poor and some have traditional features now deteriorating. You have potential to make main street a showpiece for the town and we urge you to this. Flemings is a unique traditional complex worthy of appropriate restoration. J. Hiney needs painting.

## **Landscaping:**

The additional stone walls will enhance further and should be allied to tree and shrubbery planting. Stone walls are a good investment and maintenance free. The use of cobble lock pavements will also look well, but you should retain the rural ethos of the town and avoid too much modernising. Tree planting remains the best investment under this category and we suggest you give added attention to the approach roads. Tree planting should be indigenous to the area and plant species that are appropriate. The large period house beside the church has been freshly painted and looked well.

## **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

You need to make more of the river and longterm you should embark on a river walk. This suggestion has been made several times by this adjudicator down through the years. We commend you on your work regarding a wildlife habitat and we wish you well on your intentions for a river walk on the river Brosna.

## **Litter Control:**

You have problems in this area and litter was quite evident in many parts of town. There is a litter trap at the bridge near the red cobble lock pavement area. Your policy of liaising with school authorities and the promotion of spring clean ups will help focus attention on litter control.

## **Tidiness:**

You have a good deal of dereliction keeping your marks down in this section. The unoccupied house beside the river bridge is unsightly and projects a poor image for the town. The parking of cars on the footpath outside Maidin Gheal is hardly acceptable and should be discontinued. St. Mary's Hall is very poor in presentation and is on a prime location in the town.

## **Residential Areas:**

The new housing scheme at the bridge on the Cloghan approach offers great scope for a major boost to your Tidy Towns efforts. You should recruit new members from here and organise a residents group, prepared to work with you in enhancing the town. There is an attractive infill development beside the Fire Station: this is the policy that should be pursued and many similar areas could be treated similarly. In general, houses are well presented. We suggest that all housing estates be well identified with appropriate bilingual signage. St. Cynocks Tce is well presented apart for some boundary wall needing attention.

## **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

After the major developments at Main Street are completed, you should liaise with Offaly Co. Council and get an upgrading of all the town's road structure. We note from press coverage that Ferbane is to have a new community school and a technology park: all of these developments will raise the profile of the area and should stimulate greater efforts for environmental enhancement.

## **General Impression:**

Ferbane is at a cross roads, and now has an opportunity to make significant progress in a new era of education, technology, environment, heritage, and community development. It would be a pity to let the opportunity pass you by. We wish you luck in your new endeavours for 2005.