

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Feakle**

Ref: **390**

County: **Clare**

Mark: **211**

Category: **A**

Date: **04/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	34
The Built Environment	40	31	31
Landscaping	40	30	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	32	31
Tidiness	20	7	8
Residential Areas	30	27	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	26
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>209</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Feakle is welcome to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Competition. It is noted that your small Committee of four now works with the Rural Social Scheme to help with the development of the village. We again note the absence of a work programme and would urge you to prepare a one-page plan to help you focus on your aims for the future development of the village, and improve your standing in forthcoming Competitions.

### The Built Environment:

Some of the business premises admired included Pepper's Bar; Bohan's; Loughnane's, the Post Office and dwelling, and the School. The RIC housing was colourfully presented and nicely landscaped. The dominant Church building, gates and railings all need painting. Again this year the whole area around old hotel site is very unsightly. Both C R Smyth's and J Moloney's need refurbishment, as does the building at the Y junction. The yard opposite Smyth's is a black spot. The breeze-block wall by the GAA club needs some form of screen - perhaps some ivy plants would help - and the car park area is very untidy, although the Clubhouse was well presented.

### Landscaping:

The green area opposite Pepper's, with its rose bed and picnic table, was admired. The planters

and rose bed by the lovely tiered-paved area in the square were also attractive, but the rockery at the shrine and paving needed weeding. The lamp standards and well-made picnic bench were nicely presented. The two standard bay trees by the Community centre would benefit from being re-potted into matching containers and positioned on either side of the entrance. And the trees planted in the pavement close to the RIC cottages would benefit from having the gravel removed from around them and being properly staked and tied. The chain-link fencing beside this path should be screened or replaced. The willow planting in the school garden is maturing nicely, but old broken seat in the green area opposite the school should be remove/replaced and the grass around the shrubs trimmed.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The hedgerows on all entrances to the village were lush with vegetation, and no doubt wildlife thrives in such a natural setting. And it is noted that you don't cut the hedgerows until the bird breeding season is over. There may be an suitable site in the village for the planting of a wildflower meadow and perhaps this is a project that could be adopted by the school children.

### **Litter Control:**

The village presented well in this category with no litter visible. Obviously the litter pick up rota with the National School is working - well done. All the litter bins need painting/cleaning.

### **Tidiness:**

Again this year there were heaps of gravel by the Brian Merriman commemorative stone. The adjoining graveyard was being tidied up during inspection and a County Council workers was noted clearing up on the main street. However, generally weeds abounded on the drystone walls and kerb sides throughout the village. And the very long grass opposite the pavement running through the village gave a very untidy appearance. And there were many cartons of litter dumped by the Bring Back area.

### **Residential Areas:**

The Housing Estate and gardens were well presented and many of the private dwellings also looked well. It is hoped that the developer of the new housing in the village will complete the project to a high standard and remove all building materials from the site and upgrade the dry stone wall in front of the property.

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

Your new Failte and Townland stone signs were much admired. The road surfaces and road markings need attention, as do the pavement surfaces in places.

### **General Impression:**

Feakle, on the East Clare Walking Route, with its famous sons - Brian Merriman and Johnny Patterson, and its Irish Music tradition, is an attractive village. Please keep working to improve your village. We wish you well for the future.