

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Newmarket-On-Fergus**

Ref: **329**

County: **Clare**

Mark: **215**

Category: **C**

Date: **14/06/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	24	25
The Built Environment	40	32	31
Landscaping	40	37	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	17
Litter Control	40	28	28
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	25	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>212</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Well done to the Committee of eight involved with the Tidy Towns Competition in Newmarket-on-Fergus. You have a large area to cover and a considerable amount of work has been undertaken during the year. We note that you have received funding and assistance through State bodies including Fas, Clare County Council, ESB, and ADM. However, the most important support you require is from the community in general and therefore you must endeavour to bring the local people along with you at all times. Some towns and villages use their local newsletter to publish their report, or part of thereof, and this appears to be an effective way of communication. As one approaches New-market-on-Fergus that fact that you are coming through wide new roads with large grassy banks leading to the town brings it home to you the change in circumstances over the last few years due to the by-pass. As mentioned last year this brings challenges and opportunities for the Committee and we know that these are starting to be grasped. However, the most important action that the Committee should take is to draw up a plan for the next three years. This need only be one page to set down your targets and aims. A good map should be sent to the adjudicator next year. Even though it was mentioned last year that the map was inadequate this years map was no better. A sketch map of the village showing the roads in and out etc would be a necessity. We would also suggest that you consider entering other competitions such as National Spring Clean Week, (run by An Taisce); Green Schools; Golden Mile; IBAL (Irish Business Against Litter); Anti Litter League; Pride of Place (all-Ireland competition); LEADER Environmental Initiatives and County Council Competitions, as appropriate.

## **The Built Environment:**

The built environment in general was looking quite well and work was ongoing at some business premises in the town including Supervalu. Many premises including the Church, the School and the Post Office were well presented and neat and tidy. However, the bus shelter near the School needed attention. A good use of colour has been used in many places throughout the town and this trend should be encouraged to continue. There are a number of premises for sale including Rose Cottage, which is now deteriorating to some extent. Also the derelict buildings throughout the town mentioned last year are still very visible. There is quite an amount of new building (commercial and private) taking place in and around the town and it would be good if your plan focused on endeavouring to develop the derelict sites around the town - some of these are for sale at the moment and hopefully their new owners will do this. The new sign to O'Reagan Park was noted and also the good stone name signs into the housing estates on the Kilnasoolagh Road.

## **Landscaping:**

The Committee have made the usual large commitment to landscaping in and around Newmarket-on-Fergus and the flower beds on the approach roads were admired. Also the hanging baskets on the Community Hall mentioned last year have improved and added colour in the centre of the town. Perhaps some other premises will follow suit. O'Reagan Park is indeed a wonderful achievement and the adjudicator visited same and enjoyed the natural beauty of the area with the roses cascading down the sides of the river banks and also the Rose of Sharon plants. This is a wonderful area for natural life and many birds are to be seen including the swallows flying low on the day of the adjudication. However, again the paths were weedy in places. These should have been cleared and sprayed or burnt off in May. Also there was still a little litter, crisp bags and plastic bottles in the river, less than last year but still unsightly. The trees – at different stages of maturity around the village - were admired. No doubt this trend of tree planting will continue and some suitable trees in the centre of the village would certainly enhance this area.

## **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

Newmarket-on-Fergus certainly has a broad canvas on which to work in regard to wild life projects. Naturally the O'Reagan Park provides habitat for many species and no doubt you will continue to provide shrubs with berries in this area and throughout the village to feed the birds in the winter. Kilnasoolagh Lake is also an area of great beauty and a considerable number of swans were to be seen here on the day of adjudication. You also mentioned that ducks are to be found on the lake. The addition of bird boxes in O'Reagan Park of course is also a good amenity for birds in the area.

## **Litter Control:**

Litter was absent in most places during the adjudicators visit and the cheerful yellow bins of high quality were noted and admired. It is good to know that your bottle bank is now policed and kept tidy as well; this is another commitment from the Committee which must take some time and effort – well done.

## **Tidiness:**

Newmarket-on-Fergus in general was tidy during our visit. However, with the amount of building going on at present there is a certain element of disruption in those areas. We note that you have

asked developers to leave their sites clean and tidy and this is essential in order to maintain a high standard in the village.

### **Residential Areas:**

Residential properties are mostly well kept and a credit to their owners with a few exceptions. Again the fact that boundary walls and outside these walls must be maintained should be stressed. Where you have new housing estates and new residents in the village we would suggest that you endeavour to engage these people in helping you in your activities.

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

We noted that new kerbing has been placed throughout Newmarket-on-Fergus. However, roads are still of a poor quality and need attention throughout. Some work was being undertaken on the road past the Church on the day of adjudication. The signage in the centre of the town has improved but there was still one sign bent and out of place on the day of adjudication.

### **General Impression:**

Newmarket-on-Fergus is a town with great character which we know will continue to improve in the years ahead. The town is still rather in a state of transition following the by-pass. One gets the impression that residents are drawing their breath after obtaining their freedom from the huge amount of traffic passing through the town. We look forward to seeing further progress which should emanate if plans are drawn up in order to focus attention on what needs to be done in the years ahead.