

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Feakle** Ref: **798**
County: **Clare** Mark: **226**
Category: **A** Date(s): **12/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	31
Landscaping	50	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	18
Litter Control	50	32
Waste Minimisation	20	9
Tidiness	30	9
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	226

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to the 2006 Tidy Towns competition and thank you for the completed application form. A sketch map of the village and its surrounds would have been helpful to the adjudicator in identifying areas in and around the village.

Good to note that the Committee of 3 has fostered a good relationship with the Local Community Council as this is the vehicle whereby issues can be addressed to and appropriate action taken accordingly.

The Village has done well in the competition to date and has the potential to do better.

A basic practical work plan would be advantageous as it would outline objectives and timescales under the different headings that every one could work to.

The Built Environment:

The standard in this category was satisfactory and the presentation standard of all buildings public, commercial and private was quite good.

As with many villages of its size Feakle has its problems with derelict buildings.

It is dependent on the good will of owners, who sometimes are absent landlords, to effect change and there is very little a voluntary body can do except encourage people.

On the positive side a number of both commercial and private residences were very well presented and maintained.

These included the old established Bohan's Bar, Building that houses East Clare Accessible Transport, Loughnane's and Peppers on the outskirts of the Village.

J Maloney's Premises has a very good example of a traditional shop frontage and this should be retained and enhanced.

The GAA grounds was well maintained but the boundary wall, which is rather large, could do with a coat of

paint- maybe another school summer project if local sponsorship was available.
Both the School and Church in its prime position in the Village, were well presented and credit is due to those who are responsible for the upkeep of both buildings.

Landscaping:

There was a good balance to the planting arrangements in the village and it was noted that the Rockery at the Grotto was in the process of being revitalised which will add additional colour and vibrancy to that area.

The new memorial to Johnny Patterson, the iconic travelling musician, adds to the attractiveness of the paved square the focal point of the village.

The stone beds adjacent to the square were freshly planted and were set against a back drop of appropriate trees.

The frames of both the East Clare Way and Feakle Area Notice Boards need to be re varnished to complement the area.

There were a number of individual gardens that were in pristine condition including some at the old Rent an Irish Cottage scheme.

Overall the standard was very good.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Village and its environs is a haven for various species of wildlife and it is good to note that steps are being taken to encourage the conservation process. Hedegrows and grass margins are managed in accordance what is recommended

The Committee should consider approaching the local school principle to look at the possibility of the children becoming involved.

Identify a project that would record the various types of wildlife that are particular to the surrounding area.

Litter Control:

The standard in this section was acceptable, a lot of work has been done by the committee in promoting the concept of good litter control amongst the community. There was very little litter evident on adjudication day and local residents deserve credit for this.

Overall the message of good litter control has been heeded by most residents and it is good to note that schoolchildren are being actively encouraged to engage in good practice as well.

One or two additional bins would not go amiss and this has been alluded to in the application form

Waste Minimisation:

The Race against Waste is a campaign in raising the awareness of better waste management practices.

It is incumbent on us all to embrace this in light of our poor record among the wider European Community.

The initiative that you have mentioned in your application is an ideal project that fits totally within the concept.

Having the school children involved is excellent as kids tend to take on board projects with gusto and also learn good practices at an early age.

The Committee deserves praise for facilitating this initiative.

Tidiness:

The standard in this section over the last few years has not been that good, but the adjudicator has to be objective and look for the positives as well as the negatives.

There are some issues that are outside the control of any voluntary body such as a Tidy Towns Committee and it has to be acknowledged that not everyone will embrace the Tidy town's ethos.

There are efforts being made to improve the performance in this category and while there were pockets of weed growth at kerbsides most of the individual householders had removed any weed growth or other residue from the base of buildings.

It is good to note that both the Clare County Council and the Rural Social Scheme are involved in the overall litter and tidiness management effort.

Residential Areas:

The established housing development near the well appointed GAA Grounds was very well maintained and credit is due to the residents and their children for making this happen.

The newer housing development is taking shape and the surrounding area seemed to be tidier than last year.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The standard was quite good and the failte signs depicting the traditions of Feakle are a unique feature as one enters the village.

There were a few back areas, particularly on Famine Memorial road into the village, that need to be tidied up. As with many other similar villages, portions of the road surfaces were very poor.

The Committee needs to bring this to the notice of the Development Association to lobby local politicians to get Clare Council to make provision in next year's road works plan.

General Impression:

Feakle, with its traditions of both hurling and traditional music, is famous globally and has some nice infrastructural features.

It has potential to do even better in the Tidy Towns Competition but in the greater scheme of things it is a Village that could be revitalised by a Village Regeneration Programme.

To make this happen takes immense planning and lobbying but it should be an objective to work towards in the future.

The Tidy Towns Committee has played its part in projecting a good image of the Village and you are wished well in competition.