

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Fermoy** Ref: **588**
County: **Cork (North)** Mark: **242**
Category: **D** Date(s): **24/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	41
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	22
Litter Control	50	33
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	242

Overall Development Approach:

It was many years since the adjudicator had the pleasure of actually stopping and visiting Fermoy, and not just chugging through the traffic while travelling from Dublin to Cork! It certainly is well worth the stop! The Tidy Towns Sub Committee of the Town Council at twenty is a large and effective one and your fortnightly meetings are obviously paying dividends. You have a close working relationship with AIB, Avondhu Press and Blackwater Resource Development Association. Congratulations on your work so far.

The Built Environment:

The main streets of the town looked well on adjudication day there are a number of very interesting buildings from an architectural point of view, such as the three tall buildings on Pearse Street including the AIB, Lombard's traditional old front and Carlton House's interesting Art Nouveau building. The adjudicator was pleased to note that the Civic Office's have been refurbished and the Anderson Centre on the quayside is being developed. In terms of public buildings the Post Office was quite fresh and the Garda Station was admired in brick. There is an attractive courtyard space and entrance outside the Community Resource Centre.

Landscaping:

The riverside area is nicely landscaped in particular by the bridge and its walkway is much used. You mention an emphasis on flower beds but do ensure that you have a large amount of permanent planting and tree planting as these will pay dividends in years to come and will look effective year round. The park looked well and the adjudicator was pleased to hear that you had additional planting of shrubs and trees. The unusual sculpture at the Church was greatly admired as ever as was the Bianconi monument at the dramatic entrance gates to Fermoy Park. This space has some fine features including its playground and performance area. It was generally well maintained but its railings will need painting before next year's competition. Incidental

landscaped spaces such as that to the entrance of the caravan park with its brightly coloured petunias were greatly admired.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

A heron was visible on the river on the day. This is a magnificent area with its falls and rapids and had displays of lily pads and a collection of ducks on the day. There always seems to be a lot of activity of the human kind too. There is obviously an abundance of fish judged by the number of fishermen using the area. Congratulations on the upgrading of the Barnane Riverside Walk and St. Bernard's Well.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day was generally quite good given the size of the town and its busy nature. Your regular meetings with litter wardens are obviously paying dividends, as is your anti-litter competition at the School. However, some minor outbreaks were noted at the corner of New Barrack Street and some to the attractive open space opposite Barnane Walk. The odd paper was also noted on the Castletownroche Road.

Waste Minimisation:

The bring bank area was quite neat and litter free. No dumping was evident but the bins were quite grubby. Congratulations on the participation in the green school initiative by the schools and Gaelscoil de hIde receiving theirs. The town Council's encouragement of the segregation of litter is commendable.

Tidiness:

On first impressions the town is quite neat and ordered in appearance despite the amount of construction work taking place which is of course very disruptive. Some broken concrete rails on Barrack Street had been replaced in places but should be completed. When viewed from this direction the tin roof to the panel beaters looks quite rusty on Church Hill and should be repainted.

Residential Areas:

There are some attractive apartment developments taking place. Madams cottage looks like has an interesting history behind it on Church Hill. Abbeyville House B&B makes a good impact on the Dublin Road at Brian Boru Square. The attractive street houses on raised pavements either side of the town are quite magnificent and are most unusual and are generally well maintained. A lovely raised garden to the roadside with marigolds and petunias on the Castletownroche Road was greatly admired. There are some magnificent cottages on this road also including Ard na Houn.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

These are generally to a reasonable standard. You mention traffic calming measures, Traffic calming is not the problem rather traffic congestion. The new lamp standards at the bridge were admired. The Dublin Road is quite industrial and quite disrupted at the moment due to work taking place on the bypass. This will make such a difference to the congestion that currently occurs in the town from early morning till late at night. There are some fine limestone kerbings and steps on Church Hill which were greatly admired. The integrated limestone gutters with new kerbing and cobblelock are quite effectively on Patrick Street although MacCurtain Street was not as well presented. On the Castletownroche Road the verges could have been to a higher standard and was quite overgrown. This is a marvellous entry into the town with its fabulous stone walling and mature overhanging trees with a marvellous view to the Church beyond with its stone steeple.

General Impression:

Fermoy has great potential in particular for the development of its riverside area. It has progressed well over the years and long may it do so.