

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Foynes** Ref: **451**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **230**
Category: **B** Date(s): **20/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	33
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	23
Litter Control	50	28
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	230

Overall Development Approach:

Foynes District and Community Council is welcome to the National Tidy Towns Competition 2006. Thank you for your well presented entry form and map, which was most useful. We note you only receive support from Limerick County Council, that you don't presently have a FAS worker to assist with your activities, and that all of your other work is voluntary and is thus complimented.

The Built Environment:

Foynes has a number of very fine buildings and some caught the eye of the adjudicator, including the Church and grounds; the Community Centre; Cois Sionna Credit Union; the Post Office and Foynes Health Centre. The School is in need of refurbishment and both the Garda and Fire Stations are weather stained. Well done on the completion of development work at the Community Centre, providing lift, ramp and railings access. Some of the business premises also presented well – Foynes Inn; Yankie Clipper; AIB; M Fitzgeralds; M S Motor Factors; Foynes Pharmacy, and both garages were neat and tidy. Parc na n-Gael building is fine, but the gate, fences and parking area are all in need of attention. Shannon Foynes Port Company is housed in a fine stone building. Some other business premises need attention, including W Ebzery; E O'Connor; J Joyce; Mullock & Son is weather stained, the gable does not complement the façade of Moran's Restaurant, and the removal of the fly posting at Shannon House would improve this premises. Work was still ongoing at the Foynes Aviation Museum project, and this will be a wonderful addition to what is already a very fine visitor attraction. The old hospital building, in such a prominent location, is fast become derelict. The Foynes Yacht Club (FYC) building looked well, as did its new gates, and the Swimming Pool needs a general clean up. It is noted that Limerick County Council have agreed to provide a Development Plan for the village

Landscaping:

The floral and shrub displays at the Community Centre looked fairly well; some beds doing very well; some

ready for planting; some in need of attention, and would suggest the lovely roses would do better if the grass/weeds were removed from the base. The tree planting at the front of the Centre is very attractive. There are a couple of lovely rose beds by the old Signal Box. Some of the trees were thriving at Corgrigg Wood but others need replacing, and the planting by the marine-themed sculpture is very attractive. The old railway building is very fine, but the surrounding landscaped area, including broken seats, needs attention. The planters by the school gates need replanting.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The rock faces at both entrances to the village had many wild flowers - which could be improved by planting a wider variety of wild flower seeds - is this a natural habitat for wildlife, as is the Foynes Wood. Being located by the Shannon Estuary, perhaps the school children could monitor the wild birds inhabiting the area, and this information could then be displayed on an information board at your proposed amenity area, which you're working on with the Department of the Marine and Limerick County Council.

Litter Control:

There are many fine litter bins located through the village, but litter had gathered along the street by the garage, on the ground of Park na n-Gael, in the car park of the Foynes Aviation Museum including many cigarette butts by the doorway. We note you are planning evening gatherings to improve the situation, but the standard through the village was poor in this category.

Waste Minimisation:

This is a new category for 2006, and your committee needs to study the Race Against Waste booklet which gives information on composting, recycling clothes, etc. We wish the school well with the application for the Green Flag. You already have a bring bank, so some waste is being recycled, and it is noted that you have an area at the back of the Community Centre for composting garden waste. You may also get some useful information on this from the Environmental Section of Limerick County Council. Your bring bank is presently located by the bus parking area at the Museum. Perhaps you could find a safer and less visible location for these bins?

Tidiness:

The village presented fairly well, but there are just a few areas in the village that need attention: the verge just after the Failte sign on the Limerick approach needs clearing; the chain link fenced area by the stone wall by the FYC would benefit from some form of screening other than bindweed; old gates removed from the entrance to FYC, the Green Span yard is untidy, and many of the boundary walls of properties in the village need cleaning or painting. And again many of the business properties could be improved by the discontinuance of fly posting.

Residential Areas:

The new Corgrigg Wood estate is attractive and some of the residents had very nicely landscaped gardens and floral features. Generally the houses in the Woodville housing estate presented well, as were the dwellings in Dernish Park, and the green playing area was well maintained. Foynes has many fine private dwellings, some with lovely mature gardens, and one bungalow on the left side approach from Limerick caught the eye with its wonderful display of flowers in all types of containers. And the ivy-clad two story dwelling was most attractive. And there are some very fine new houses on the hill behind Woodville. And the stone-terraced houses in the village are very attractive and a credit to their owners.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Most of the signage to the village was in good condition, but the sign on the Glin approach needs cleaning, as do the signs at FYC and Museum. Road works were underway on the Limerick approach; the road down to Foynes Port is good and grass cutting had commenced. Road surfaces and pavements in the village were in good condition, though the hard shoulder area on the village side of FYC is in poor condition.

General Impression:

Foynes, located on the very busy N69, and on the shore of the Shannon Estuary, is a fine village, with some very fine stone buildings. Your committee of ten is congratulated on your efforts and we encourage you to apply for outside assistance under the FAS scheme. Keep up the good work and we wish you well with your endeavours.