

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Newmarket-on-Fergus** Ref: **83**
County: **Clare** Mark: **233**
Category: **C** Date(s): **23/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	27
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	29
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	233

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the completed application and both the sketch and ordinance survey maps which was very helpful to this adjudicator in his adjudication process.

Your committee of 8 is very active as noted by the number of committee meetings that are held each year.

It is noted that you have a developed very strong links with Clare County Council, Pobal and the wider community in Newmarket on Fergus who have supported your fundraising endeavours.

The village has benefited as a result.

Also the fostering of links with the School and Scouts will also have benefits, as school children will learn by good example.

The Village overall has benefited from the by pass as it has become more quieter and in deed less congested – I suppose I am stating the obvious as one who often was caught up in a log jam a mile back in “those” days

The Built Environment:

Like many other villages of its size Newmarket is experiencing change that was not envisaged 10 years ago. The amount of new housing developments is staggering for a place of its size and it was noted that there are a number of works ongoing.

Indeed more are planned as two additional planning notices were observed in the core of the village alone.

Lets hope that village will be able to service this entire new infrastructure.

That aside the Village had many fine examples of well maintained and presented premises both commercial and private.

The following caught this adjudicators eye and were indicative of the standard seen: the Public Buildings as follows The Garda Station which was nicely dashed, the impressive facility that is the Family Health Centre, The Church and School, well appointed Soccer Ground the property of Newmarket Celtic and Halla na Pobal.

There are too many commercial properties to mention except to note that a number of refurbished properties have been completed in tandem with the existing street.

As an example the owners of the property adjacent to Hayes Shop deserve credit for the colour scheme applied.

Indeed the use of colour overall is top class.

A similar comment applies to private residences, some of which were in pristine condition on very fine June evening.

On the negative side the "hub" of the village in the square has a proliferation of too many inappropriate signs. It would be worthwhile if this problem looked as part of any future village development plan.

There is some dereliction and it was also noted that a few businesses that were active up to a few years ago have ceased to be and properties are unoccupied.

Some of this will be addressed in the near future, as there are planning notices on a number of these buildings for new development.

Landscaping:

This is a category that the Village has attained a very high mark over successive years.

One can see why as the rose beds and shrub-planting arrangements, particularly on the outskirts of the village, were a sight to behold.

Both the Old Limerick Road and Dromoland entrances give a very inviting look as one enters the village. Individual householders deserve credit for complementing the public planting arrangements with some excellent and colourful gardens and an array of hanging baskets.

The owners of premises in the core of the village near the Church and in the older Terrace of Houses across the way take a bow.

By the way these areas should be identified by way of a simple stone nameplate.

One cannot leave this section without commenting on the magnificent Village amenity that is O Regan Park, suffice to say that it has been nominated for Waterside Award in this year's competition.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The extra bird boxes were noted in O Regan Park, actually the adjudicator during a period of relaxation there observed many species of wildlife around the river and trees and shrubs.

Lough Gais, which is accessible from a number of areas of the town including the park, is an ideal location for a specific wildlife project.

The committee should approach a local wild life enthusiast to see what would be appropriate and then get school children involved either through the principal or indeed the scout movement.

Litter Control:

Litter control was very good on all approaches and in most housing areas, but there was too much evident in the main square of the village and in one or two green areas in housing estates.

One has to make allowances that it was Saturday evening and kids were re-enacting the World Cup and the exploits of Riquelme and Ronaldinho.

The number of bins was sufficient.

Do keep up the good work in conveying the message to the wider and growing local community.

Waste Minimisation:

The Committee has commented that a new camera has been put in place at the bottle bank, which is good thing as it deters those that might be inclined to litter to back off.

In relation to initiatives under this particular category you should consult the Race Against Waste publication, forwarded as part of your application package, and see what can be done from your community to promote better waste management.

Tidiness:

Reference was made earlier to the number of derelict properties that exist in the village, but it looks like that most of these are earmarked for commercial development which is positive in some senses.

The problem with all building sites is that invariably they can be messy.

I would hope that the developers involved will endeavour to keep areas around sites as tidy as possible.

Other than a few pockets of kerbside residue the roadsides were clean, this is the advantage of reduced traffic.

For the most part back areas were also quite tidy.

Residential Areas:

Many new housing areas have evolved in Newmarket over the last few years, some are in the process of completion and some are maturing nicely.

The older estates are for the main part were kept very well, but there are always exceptions and these people should be encouraged to help Newmarket show its best side at all times.

To the residents of the following congratulations for making the effort, and do impress upon your neighbours that it pays to keep places tidy: Glean Corra which is quite new and has a few Swiss fans, Avondale do try keep green area tidier, Kilnasoolagh Park, Glengragga and the surrounding area, the new housing development opposite Halpins Garage.

And finally to the residents of the both terraces of houses adjacent to and opposite the Church top marks for the way the houses and gardens are kept.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The slow down in traffic in last two years has been noticeable, is only now one can appreciate the magnificent main entrances into the village from both the Dromoland and Old Limerick Road sides.

The quality of landscaping has been alluded to elsewhere in this report.

The other arterial roads from Kilnasoolagh, Ballycar/Newmarket and linking in from Moghaun were all very acceptable.

Some of the internal link roads had rough surfaces but overall were in reasonable condition.

General Impression:

It is now pleasing to visit Newmarket On Fergus in its own right, instead of cursing the backlog of traffic on its way to Lahinch, Ennis or Kilkee.

It is a Village with a lot of history and attractive features such as the excellent O Regan Park.

The Village has become more relaxed and indeed the colour applied to buildings reflects this.

It will continue to do well in the competition if it keeps this standard up.

You are wished well for the future.