

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Newmarket-on-Fergus** Ref: **83**
County: **Clare** Mark: **241**
Category: **C** Date(s): **05/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	28
The Built Environment	50	34
Landscaping	50	39
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	22
Litter Control	50	29
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	241

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your completed application form together with the ordnance survey maps and supplementary material to support your application. All were of great help to the adjudicator. However a town plan over the next three years would also help the tidy town's competition. A plan allows one to have measurable benchmarks to work to. This is advised for next year's application as it will help your town to progress further.

The Built Environment:

The town suffers in that the road surfaces, with few exceptions are in very poor condition and this does not help the overall aspect of the town. Your point on the new water mains been put in place throughout the village has no doubt helped this situation. However this is one of the prices we have to pay in order to improve our towns and villages. Getting people to address issues such as dereliction, and there are some few obvious eyesores in the core of the village, is a delicate operation. Please continue with your efforts. Public buildings such as the school and garda station were well presented. The very impressive fine church could do with being painted; the cream dashed panels have become dirty and weather beaten over time. A number of the existing commercial properties in the village could benefit from a paint make over that would brighten the appearance of Newmarket on Fergus as a whole. Plaudits to those individual properties and householders that have presented their properties and surrounding areas to a high standard.

Landscaping:

The work undertaken in this category has been immense since the adjudicator last visited Newmarket on Fergus. This has not happened overnight. Your title of rose town is richly deserved. The colour and care taken on the approach roads was excellent in what was not the best of summer for roses, especially spectacular were the Ennis approach road, Limerick Shannon approach road and the Tulla approach road. The sculpture by the church is wonderful and so appropriate for the area and its surroundings.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The area is so spoiled for natural wildlife that would be the envy of other similar sized towns. The wonderful local amenity of O' Regan Park is on your doorstep. The community should consider approaching the local school principal to look at the possibility of getting local children involved in identifying a project which would record the various types of wildlife associated with the local area. The wildlife ranger from Clare county council should help and advise you on some such projects.

Litter Control:

The community has been very active in ensuring the message of good litter control throughout the town. Having school children involved is excellent as children tend to take on projects with gusto and also learn good practice at an early age.

Waste Minimisation:

This is a reasonably new area, which has to be addressed under the National Tidy Towns Competition. The Race Against Waste is a campaign in raising 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. Refer to the Race Against Waste publication, included with the application package, for initiatives that would suit your community. One excellent initiative is the green flag project for national schools involving children and teachers. As mentioned previously children love such projects and learn from best practice at an early age. The recycling centre (bottle bank) was looking very acceptable on day of adjudication. The Camera at this location has proven its usefulness.

Tidiness:

The main area of the town was rather untidy particularly by the church/car park area due to ongoing infrastructural work taking place. It is nearly impossible to keep residue and dust etc. forming. Kilnasoolagh housing estate and the library need urgent attention as there was some litter evident and grass was overgrown. The Wild-plant area was excellent apart from evidence of burnt hedging, not a pretty sight! The library needs painting and again there was evidence of broken seating to the front of some. Also litter bin needs to be replaced at library as this was rusty and overflowing with litter.

Residential Areas:

Residential areas such as Loch Glais and Avondale were very much admired. Newmarket on Fergus had a major influx of new residents in the last few years and has resulted in major infrastructural changes to the town. These type of developments are very much in keeping with the original landscape. The only concern that the adjudicator would voice is that too much of this type of progress may suffocate the uniqueness that Newmarket on Fergus has to offer. Large developments on the old Limerick road were not as impressive as the smaller housing areas in the town.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

As mentioned previously, your town has gone through major infrastructural change, housing developments, new water mains etc. This has resulted in very poor road surfaces throughout. However, this is a price we all pay for progress.

General Impression:

This adjudicator certainly enjoyed visiting to Newmarket on Fergus. O' Regan Park will be on her list when she visits Newmarket on Fergus again. What a wonderful place. Congratulations to all concerned in bringing such an amenity to the local area.