

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Newmarket-on-Fergus** Ref: **83**
County: **Clare** Mark: **246**
Category: **C** Date(s): **18/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	28
The Built Environment	50	35
Landscaping	50	40
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	22
Litter Control	50	29
Waste Minimisation	20	12
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	246

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the entry form and the good map of the area. I note you have eight members on the committee and you meet every fortnight. It is positive to find that you are interacting well with Clare County Council, Pobal and the ESB, and you are getting financial support from the local clergy through church gate collections. Generally speaking the local communities respond well, in our experiences, to newsletters and I see you are communicating well with the parishioners. It is worthwhile to support the schools and I found the additional information where the local school have attained the green flag status, and congratulations to all concerned. It is interesting to learn that you find the competition to be a rewarding experience, and it is an incentive to achieve more. The festivals and other events are important social occasions and generate good spirit among the people.

The Built Environment:

The principal building in the town is the Catholic Church which looked crisp and fresh and is very well maintained. The Temperance hall was well presented with neat hanging baskets of flowers and the handball building looked good from the front, but the gutters are in need of attention. Fr Murphy Memorial Park was very well presented on the outside and sported a fine well maintained pavilion. The school looked very clean and tidy and it is wonderful to see the green flag flowing in the wind outside. Newmarket Celtic have a fine premises and playing grounds. There is a beautiful stone outside the building in the landscaped area with the inscription To celebrate forty years of Newmarket Celtic AFC 1968-2008 bringing football to community. The Garda station is set in nicely in a surround of mature trees and attractive shrubs. The Family Centre is a good modern building. All the business houses in the town are well maintained and those that caught my eye were Super Valu, The Weavers Inn, K Hayes Foodstore, The Pharmacy, The Hunters Lodge, The Salon and O'Neill's bar.

Landscaping:

Landscaping in the town is of a consistent very high standard, and in fact this is the case for many years. It was a pleasure to stroll around the village and enjoy those wonderful shrubberies and the great green spaces. There are splendid mature trees and shrubs leading out to the ornate roundabout on the Limerick / Shannon road. I admired the sculpture and water feature in the village green that are set in an appropriate cut stone circle. The O'Regan is a good amenity area with splendid walkways through it and spacious green spaces where the grass was well manicured. The carved stone is an interesting feature. The place is well serviced with litter bins and public seating. The rivers running along by the side enhance the aesthetics, and I was surprised to find from careful examination that there is no trace at all of fish life in the water. I note you intend to stock these rivers with fish, but it could be advisable to get a professional opinion as to the lack of fish there at present. The stone bridge, viewed from the pathway, looks very good. The landscaping at the crossroads leading out to Rossroe Lake is superb.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

There is an abundance of wildlife in all those wonderful trees, stone walls and hedges all around this area. It could be educational and interesting to erect a notice board in or near the O'Regan park giving details of the fauna and flora of the area.

Litter Control:

The control of litter is generally speaking quite good for such a big and busy location. It is noticeable that the litter bins have been updated around the town and it is a very good idea to have C.C.T.V surveillance at the bottle banks. The bottle bank at the library was well serviced and was neat and tidy in appearance.

Waste Minimisation:

I note you are segregating the litter going to Inagh landfill. It is positive that you are availing of spring cleanup promotion. Please bear in mind that the encouragement of composting in the homes is the way forward in reducing the amount of waste going to landfill. The green flag status at the school will undoubtedly be beneficial and this makes the children aware of the benefits of looking after their own environment in a responsible way.

Tidiness:

Generally speaking the town was clean and fresh and the footpaths are well catered for. A few derelict houses were observed, but there is not a whole lot you can do about this. The roof of a galvanised shed was rusted and unsightly and there is a boarded up premises near the Tradaree Arms with a further derelict house on the Ennis road. Some new houses are in the development stage on the Limerick road, but the works are being carried out in a responsible manner by the contractors.

Residential Areas:

The housing estates are all well maintained. The long wrought iron railing down at the bottom of Kilnasoolagh park needs attention, firstly to prolong its lifespan and it lowers the aesthetics of the estate. Lough Gash is a good modern estate with some good landscaping and has a traditional stone wall outside boundary wall. The houses on the Ennis road were very brightly decorated and well maintained. Avondale looked superb with the attractive grotto, and here the old horse chestnut trees are added to with new trees. The housing estates on the road to the church are well maintained with some tastily presented landscaping. All the other private houses are well maintained and some of them had spectacular displays of mature trees, shrubs, lawns and colourful flowers and these compliment the fine landscaping done by the TidyTowns committee around the town.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

All the roads through the town are in good condition and it is obvious that they have been attended to since last year's adjudication. There are some fantastic stone boundary walls all around the town.

General Impression:

It was a pleasure to visit Newmarket on Fergus a town that I drove through on many occasions. It is obvious that the people of this area are proud of the town and look after it very well. Well done to all concerned.