

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Fermoy** Ref: **588**
County: **Cork(North)** Mark: **253**
Category: **D** Date(s): **19/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	26
The Built Environment	50	42
Landscaping	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	29
Litter Control	50	37
Waste Minimisation	20	9
Tidiness	30	20
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	253

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the filled out entry form and map of Fermoy. I did not find a three to five year plan. I note you have 20 members on your committee and you have monthly meetings involving voluntary and community groups. Welcome support comes to you from Avondhu Tourism, Fermoy Image Improvement group and Fás. You are communicating with the local people, but this could be improved by the use of parish newsletters. It is worthwhile to communicate with the schools. We are pleased to find that the competition brings your community together for a common goal.

The Built Environment:

This section deals with public buildings and business houses, for the most part therefore, it is out of your control and in the control of statutory bodies and business people, but you have a very important role to play as a Tidy Towns Group to ensure that you are in agreement and understand what is planned for your town, and that the work is done in a satisfactory manner. The town has been developed very well incorporating new businesses and shops that are carefully planned and fit in well with the older established shops and offices of the town. The standard of upkeep of almost all the shops is excellent with great colour schemes and neat and tidy appearances. I was very impressed with the high standard of all the schools that I saw and it is wonderful to see the green flag hoisted outside some of them. The courthouse is an imposing and elegant historic building. The town hall has modern architectural qualities. The Credit Union building was presented in great shape with a wonderful clock. The Church of Ireland is visually striking and a fine historical building. The Catholic Church is a great commanding structure where traditional building techniques were implied to produce wonderful stone walls; it has tasty landscaping and was spotlessly clean and fresh.

Landscaping:

There are, in my view, wonderful displays of natural landscaping all around this town with the superb

traditional stone walls. These walls are great features and must be cherished by all. The views of the trees and houses forming backdrops to the walls are most picturesque. Some wild flowers, notably red valerian make wonderful shows on some walls. I feel that some more trees could be incorporated around the town to give a softening effect to some of the buildings, especially along the main street. I also felt that a few tubs of shrubs could be introduced in a few other areas. Lots of the private traditional houses and business houses had lovely displays of shrubs and flowers in hanging baskets and window boxes. The landscaping along the sides of some of the approach roads sported some neatly cut grass margins. I admired the plaque to Thomas A Ryan and Michael J McElligott in a nicely secluded area. There is an impressive hedging on the Cork road of Griselinia.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The walking way out past the Community Youth Centre is a superb amenity to enjoy the large amount of fauna and flora in that area. There are wonderful views of the river to be enjoyed from the great garden furniture. It was great to see a group of ducks swimming along the river. I was pleasantly surprised to visit the town park, it was a wonderful treat. A high standard greeted me at the entrance with the sculpture of the mail coaches which was expertly done by Jarlath Daly. But inside the park the high standard was maintained with beautiful garden seats. Some new trees compliment the existing stock of mature trees. Neatly cut grass in spacious areas gave a great freshness to the park. Traditional stone walls make up most of the boundary of the park which also sported neat displays of good landscaping. I loved the children's playground, and it was great to see a large amount of children thoroughly enjoying themselves in the fresh air.

Litter Control:

You mention Local anti-litter challenge, Cork County Council litter challenge and Muintir Na Tire competition – do you take part in these competitions? There were a lot of litter bins around the town and most of them were well serviced. However some isolated bits of litter were evident, near the courthouse, down from the Grand Hotel and on the Killarney road. The national problem of cigarette ends on the street was in Fermoy, but some of publicans had washed and swept outside their places.

Waste Minimisation:

I inspected the recycling depot and the place was very well maintained and it contained three bins for clothes and six other bins for the different bottles and cans. It is wonderful to have the green flag status in the schools, as this makes the children more aware of the race against waste. I note you keep in regular contact with the local business people and residents and I trust you encourage them to compost as much of their waste as is possible.

Tidiness:

Unfortunately, somebody defaced the splendid entrance to the park with graffiti – a pity! I see that the Town Council staff members are involved with these items on a continual basis. Some derelict houses were noted, but there is not a lot you can do about private property. Generally speaking the town was tidy.

Residential Areas:

There is an array of beautiful private houses all around the town and most of them have impressive shows of flowers, lawns, trees, hedging, stone walls and flowers. The traditional town houses, with bright colours, are well maintained. There is a high standard of planning and workmanship to be seen in the new housing estates, with great landscaping in place. The older estates are maintained to a good standard, and some established landscaping was admired, but I did not find names on some of them

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The back areas of the town have been quite well developed in recent times to accommodate trading and ample car parks. It is difficult to know what your plans are for this topic. The traffic is much better controlled now since my last visit before the town was bypassed, but the town is still very busy. All the signage is clean and distinct. There is a welcoming effect from fine landscaping on the Cork and Limerick roads in particular.

General Impression:

It was a pleasure to visit Fermoy and to walk around a most picturesque town, take a stroll in the Avonghu walk and get this great treat of enjoying the wonderful park. The maintenance of this public park is a credit to all concerned – well done.

