

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Feenagh** Ref: **450**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **239**
Category: **A** Date(s): **10/07/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	29
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	18
Litter Control	50	39
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	239

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome Feenagh to the 2009 national Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for submitting your entry form. There was no village map or sketch of projects received by this adjudicator. It's a pity that parts of the entry form were not completed in full as this makes it more difficult to understand the issues and be informed on all the Tidy Towns activities of Feenagh.

As was stated in 2008 we are delighted to welcome Feenagh back to the Competition again this year, in spite of the obvious difficulties arising from the collapse of the contract arrangements for the sewage treatment scheme. Hopefully, this issue will be resolved as soon as possible.

Details on the numbers involved in the TidyTowns Committee were not supplied in the entry form, probably due to an oversight, however if your committee is small in number it makes it difficult to achieve your aims and targets.

Again, there is no mention of the number of meetings held during the year, except as stated by you that a number of meetings were held and also some clean up evenings. Well done on these initiatives. The support of Limerick County Council, the Community Council and others for your work is an important element and it is positive for the work of the committee and Feenagh to continue to achieve this. Your communications strategy including word of mouth messages and the use of local newspapers is worthwhile. Your engagement with the school by attending Board of Management meetings and involvement with clean-ups is positive.

No action plan for TidyTowns was received with your entry form. We would recommend the preparation of a short concise three year plan 2010-2012 for Feenagh TidyTowns activities and that this would be submitted with the 2010 entry. This plan would enable you to set down Aims and Objectives and agree on targets for the three years 2010-2012. It would also help in discussions for financial and other support with existing and new

partners. This plan preparation could be a task for the committee over the winter months; it need not be prepared by a professional. There are additional marks for such a plan submission. It's good to note that your participation in the Tidy Towns Competition helps to keep the Feenagh community vibrant and that you find the involvement in the competition very positive.

The Built Environment:

It was encouraging to see that the old national school is still playing an active role as the Community Centre for the village; painted cream and green it looked very impressive. The old school dates from July 1849 to June 1975 and its condition is a credit to all concerned. Since 1975 it has served Feenagh as the Community Centre. A wonderful conservation of an historical building that has been part of the lives of so many people over the past 160 years. What a subject for a festival event next year to celebrate 160 years of school and community life in Feenagh. The Carnegie Library, from 1917, painted light grey with red door and gate and sash style windows was attractive. The 18th century Church, with its lovely grounds including the attractive stone bench and shrubs, was very enticing. The National School was well maintained with white/red metal bollards outside the parking area, neatly cut lawn, shrubberies and tarmac area. The silver birch trees looked in fine condition and a lovely feature in the grounds. The bird box at the school was noted.

Businesses throughout the village were generally operating from tidy premises. McGuinness Bar was well presented. The General Supermarket/Post Office was neat, but the galvanised door to the side could look better if painted. The Village Inn Bar with the lamp standards on the wall looked well.

Landscaping:

As was mentioned, the ongoing disruption caused by the problems associated with the collapse of the sewage treatment contract is very disheartening for your committee. While no new landscaping projects have been started, it appeared that existing shrubberies and green areas were being maintained. The display incorporating the flagstone from Feenagh Library was attractive, but the use of the evergreen elwoodi trees might be reconsidered, these tend to grow too tall and become a bit unsightly. The young trees and plant containers along the street, near McGuinness Bar, were in good condition. There were fine examples of well built walls throughout the village. The red village pump with the milk churn and colourful bedding plants was a very pretty sight. The poem to The Old Village Pump was noted and the fact that the well dates from 1718 suggests much history has passed this way! Try to keep positive, things will get better

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The provision of a bird table in the school grounds is a start; however, one project which might be considered under this category would be a survey of existing wildlife in the area. This might be a suitable project for the local schoolchildren, under the guidance of a teacher or local wildlife enthusiast. The results could then be used to decide what plants and facilities need to be provided for the existing wildlife and to attract new species into the area.

Litter Control:

The litter bins around the village seemed to be coping well within their capacity. The village looked tidy overall. The area around the recycling bins at the Community Centre was clean and tidy, as was the area outside the GAA grounds

As was mentioned last year, this category is not only marked on the absence of litter during the inspection, but it also includes the planning process for litter control. Additional marks can be achieved by submitting a litter control plan as part of the entry submission. Areas to be considered under such a plan would include a survey of problem areas, key litter generators, number and locations of litter bins, and schedule of litter collections. Suggestions for resolution of problems, clear targets, as the plan is rolled out, and a clear method of monitoring progress should also be included.

Waste Minimisation:

Congratulations to all involved in achieving the highly acclaimed Green Flag status for your school. It is a very important step along the road to improvement of our environment and by working together much can be achieved. It was great to see the Green Flag flying proudly outside the school during our visit. This will encourage wider interest in the Race Against Waste. Keep up the good work.

The Clothing Bank located at the GAA grounds was in good condition and the area surrounding was clean and tidy. The recycling bank with five containers, at the Community Centre, was also clean and tidy. Well done.

Tidiness:

The presence of necessary overhead wires and cables makes the skyline look untidy and lessens the impact of the nice streetscape. The village was fairly tidy, in spite of the difficulties which had arisen as a result of the disruption to the sewerage scheme. The overhead wires removal is for discussion with the service providers. This could be a longer term target in the three year plan.

The commemorative plaque marking the international exchange between Feenagh and Lagoa, Portugal was attractive, with a neatly planted flowerbed nearby.

Residential Areas:

There were some very attractive houses in the village; we particularly liked the well painted bungalow, 'clutter cottage' with pretty window boxes next to the supermarket and the white bungalow with neat planting across the road. The wonderful white farmhouse, with its sash windows and beautiful rose beds and landscaping, was a wonderful example of traditional architecture.

The two-story detached house on the approach to the village, which is covered in ivy, is a lovely proud structure and in excellent condition. As is the lovely house opposite the national school.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

It's positive to note that the boundary wall at the GAA grounds was in good condition as was the footpath at the village sign at the approach to Feenagh. One of the seats on the footpath was in need of repair. The bilingual road signs for Feenagh at the approach roads were in need of repainting. The stone seat at the approach road was a lovely feature.

The condition of traffic signs throughout the village was quite mixed. Some signposts were in need of cleaning or repainting.

General Impression:

Well done again on your involvement in the 2009 Tidy Towns Competition, in spite of your stated problems related to the sewage contract and to the road funding issues. Try and increase the numbers serving on your committee and this will enable you to plan for the next three years' activities for Feenagh Tidy Towns Committee. Remember to celebrate the existence of the old national school being part of Feenagh since 1849; some 160 years! There are countries in the world with a shorter history than your historic school. This would be so worthwhile to celebrate, write the history; have a weekend of activities involving past and present pupils; bring back the emigrants for the events; celebrate a special open air Mass; have a concert; and have a Tidy Towns Sports Day. Make it a happy weekend and the memories will live for the benefit of all from Feenagh. Keep up the effort and remain positive. Your involvement in Tidy Towns will serve the community well.