

Tidy Towns Competition 2012

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Feenagh** Ref: **450**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **253**
Category: **B** Date(s): **01/07/2012**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2011	Mark Awarded 2012
Overall Development Approach	50	29	29
The Built Environment	50	35	36
Landscaping	50	35	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	18	18
Litter Control	50	41	41
Tidiness	30	19	19
Waste Minimisation	20	8	8
Residential Areas	40	28	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29	30
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	400	249	253

Overall Development Approach:

Your adjudicator would like to welcome Feenagh to the 2012 TidyTowns Competition and your participation is important to the competition. Your committee of just two is too small for a village like Feenagh and this adjudicator urges others in the community to join in your important committee. Try contacting any local groups to see if they will get involved. It is important that each project is featured in the entry form under the correct adjudication category. Next year it would be helpful if you would include a village map that marks the location of all your new projects for the year. Also it is helpful if you can be specific about each project – what is it, where is it located and when was the work started. It is also suggested that you prepare a 3 Year Tidy Towns Plan for Feenagh using the ten adjudication categories as a framework. Give an implementation year for each project and an indication of likely supporting groups or agencies.

The Built Environment:

Feenagh is an attractive linear village. Works involving repainting of some walls and seats was examined and well done on that. Work on the school extension seems to be well advanced and that will be great for the Feenagh community. The white railings here needed to be washed and the road boundary wall painted. The repainted pubs were admired and they looked really well. The Community Centre colour scheme is really effective and this looked extremely well kept and tidy. The use of the Irish language on signage is required under present legislation and this should be encouraged where appropriate. On signage the Irish language must have the primary role. There are still a number of road boundary walls that need to be painted.

Landscaping:

Hanging baskets and window boxes were admired in Feenagh as was the Feenagh 2000 landscaped area. This is an attractive development. What appeared to be some new planting at the school was noted. The

village pump has been well painted and appropriately landscaped. Your adjudicator reminds the TidyTowns Committee that the cutting of roadside banks and ditches in the period 1st March to 30th August is not permitted under Section 40 of the Wildlife Act 1976, incorporating Section 46 of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000. The invasive species must be handled most carefully. Do not try to remove it without getting the best professional advice first. It is easier to spread the problem rather than eliminating it.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Bird and Badger boxes have been erected according to your entry form. Did you get professional advice in regard to design and location as these issues can be critical to success? It is suggested that you investigate the wildlife of the Feenagh area. This should include plants, mammals, birds, fish, butterflies and plants. There may be someone in the parish with wildlife knowledge who would be prepared to help. The LEADER Partnership would be another source of advice.

Litter Control:

Litter control in Feenagh was found to be very good and the Bring Centre was visited. Here however there were a few issues. One of the units is damaged and litter is coming out of the bottom of that unit. The official signage was not in place.

Tidiness:

Watch for weed growth in gravel areas at the base of road boundary walls. Your regular cleanups have been noted from the entry form and these are always essential to keep on top of the tidiness issue. To the side of The Forge this small building needs to be repainted. Have you considered painting all field gates to an agreed colour scheme? Talk to the local engineer about painting sign poles matt black.

Waste Minimisation:

This category is about reducing the annual waste generated in Feenagh. As a start it is suggested that a simple local survey is carried out looking at water, electricity, paper and cardboard wastage for a start. What is happening at the Community Centre and the School to give just two examples. The TidyTowns Handbook will give further guidance.

Residential Areas:

The repainting of some of the thirteen unoccupied houses was noted and this makes a difference – well done. Attractive entrance landscaping at The Forge caught the eye. At the white house with the Ivy, the grey road boundary wall needed to be painted. The same situation was noted in respect of some other houses also.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

As no map was provided approach roads cannot be given their proper name in this report. The approach from the Garage was overgrown and the village sign obscured by growth. This sign would be improved if washed. On the Community Centre side the banks were neatly cut but weed growth was evident. A section of what appeared to be new footpath was seen.

General Impression:

It is great to have Feenagh in the TidyTowns competition and your adjudicator wishes you every possible future success. We look forward to returning to Feenagh in 2013.