

Tidy Towns Competition 2014

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Feenagh** Ref: **450**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **263**
Category: **B** Date(s): **05/06/2014**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014
Community Involvement & Planning	60	32
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	38
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	29
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	22
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	14
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	64
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	32
TOTAL MARK	450	263

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Feenagh TidyTowns has partnered up with the Development Association. This is a good strategic move as it is important to work together for the communal aims of the locality.

You outlined in your entry form a comprehensive list of projects – are these detailed in a long-term plan? If so it would be good to include this in next year's application.

Built Environment and Streetscape / An Timpeallacht Thógtha agus Sráid-dreacha:

The green flag was flying proudly at the school and indeed you have gained an amazing eight flags to date – what a great achievement. The main street looked very well and clean. Arriving into Feenagh there was a lovely, traditional farmhouse (Feenagh House) and nearby a thatched cottage that was very nicely presented. The wrought iron gates here were very nice – perhaps the conservation architect of Limerick County Council can give some advice on how to best enhance/paint these gates? The village pump and churn make for a nice focal feature in front of the wonderfully presented Church. There was a lovely stylist mural at the entrance to the Forge estate showing the working blacksmith.

Throughout Feenagh, there were nice wooden seats provided in the community. The Community centre at Feenagh was clean and neat. Perhaps some planters at the door could brighten this area? The Carnegie library is one of just 2000 of these built throughout the world. The building has some traditional windows and doors here and some remedial works were being carried out on adjudication day – it is nice to see this being restored. Some commercial premises, now closed, have large windows which could be used for hosting a window display on heritage objects possibly. There were some nice old post office signs at the door of Feenagh's Post Office. But perhaps some of the more faded signs and stickers could be removed from here?

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

On adjudication day workers were building a flower bed at the bend of the road and this should look very nice upon completion. This category of the competition looks for year round structure and form and you have this in abundance with your rural and natural setting. So you don't need to input a lot here. But the small number of planters and beds that you have in Feenagh make a great impact and allow you to successfully manage costs also.

Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fiadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádúrtha:

There are nice trees along the main street. Birdboxes were noted in the school grounds. Nearly every neighbouring

TidyTown's entrant mentioned in their application form their local rookeries. As such it was great to read in yours that this is all part of a network rookery mapping project. How many do you have? Have you involved the wider Feenagh community in the mapping of the local rookeries? This is a great initiative.

You are considering where to locate a badger box in the area. Badgers, one of Ireland's protected mammals, are very adept at building and normally such a box is only provided where a set has been destroyed and the habitat has to be replaced – such as on a motorway construction site. So you are advised that this would not be necessary. It was unusual to see a farm field within the speed limits of a village. But there is a nice one on the corner as you arrive into Feenagh with some lovely Friesian calves in it on adjudication day.

Sustainable Waste and Resource Management / Bainistiú Acmhainní agus Dramhaíola Inbhuanaithe:

It was great to note that you have established a community composting area at the housing development. Do you now use your own composting in your own landscaping schemes? With nine green flags earned by the school, it is considered that a wide-array of sustainable actions are undertaken in Feenagh. There are a lot of marks to gain now in this category of the competition so tell us all about the breadth of work you are doing relating to this.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

There was a lot of litter down the alley way where for the old village pump was originally located. It was obviously collecting here so it is recommended that this lane is included in your litter-picking route. There was also some litter in the flower bed by the community hall. A beer can was also noted on the main street but the litter collector was observed on adjudication day so no doubt this was picked up quickly. At the bottle banks, there are signs for Limerick's waste strategy but your adjudicator did not understand why they should be so prominently displayed here – are they necessary? Some cable ties were noted on trees here.

Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:

There were nice, modest homes well-presented through Feenagh. The painted window boards of some of the closed homes were admired.

The bedding plants and silver birch in the Forge estate looked very well. There is a nice cluster of trees in this estate, nicely underplanted with ferns etc. Your adjudicator revisited this estate as the entry form talked of the compost heap here – it was so discrete that your adjudicator did not see it the first time around. This is a lovely estate with fab views.

Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:

Your adjudicator really enjoyed the visit to Feenagh. You are located in a beautiful part of Ireland and the village sits nicely within this rural environment. Arriving into the village, there is a lovely black and white sign for Feenagh, though it was slightly obscured by a bush.

There is good continuity of pavement throughout Feenagh. Your adjudicator was surprised that there is no crossing available at the school – perhaps this could form part of your long-term plan? The new kerbing was examined.

Entrance piers and landscaping at Donegan's garage were very nice. Driving in from the west of Feenagh, there is an old farm building with a tin roof that is falling in – there are concerns that this could be a safety hazard. There is a nice seat down the alleyway where the old village pump was originally located. The field gate and chair in this lane needs a little tlc.