

Tidy Towns Competition 2016

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Newmarket-on-Fergus** Ref: **83**
County: **Clare** Mark: **298**
Category: **C** Date(s): **14/06/2016**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	40	40
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	43	44
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	45	45
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	29	29
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	16	17
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	55	56
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	30	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	34	36
TOTAL MARK	450	292	298

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Newmarket-on-Fergus is most welcome to the 2016 Tidy Towns competition. Many thanks for your entry form with a three-year plan, additional information and map. Your plan contains many worthwhile actions and you are wished success with each one. Perhaps when it comes time to renew it you should reorganise its layout so that there is a section on each of the contest headings. In this way you will be making even progress across the categories. Your map is very successful – clear and legible while identifying project locations and with a succinct key. You could probably try to make your application form more concise by sticking to projects which have been undertaken in the last 12 months. Planned projects will be in the three-year plan while projects from 2014 can not be awarded points. Clarity should guide your text. You have an impressive 40 on your committee and this leaves you well placed to really get stuck in. You have divided labour into dedicated teams and this is the wise approach. You have a broad and established network of connections to all relevant support agencies and civic groups. The arrival of the junior tidy towns group this year is a major development and you are absolutely correct to allow the children devise their own projects. This endeavour will no doubt lead to an awakening of civic spirit in your young people.

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

Congratulations on the progress you have made in your village green projects. It would have been useful for the adjudicator to have had an image of its original appearance and perhaps a drawing of the final vision to get a sense of what is being achieved. Are there plans to use of the Fair Green as a civic space, e.g. for markets or family events? Similarly when renovating buildings do provide a before and after photograph to demonstrate the effect of your work. Well done on the number of projects you have undertaken in this regard. The church and monument in the Fair Green are striking features which anchor this area. The nearby sports centre was looking well with a fresh colour scheme and hanging baskets. The mural on Reale family butchers was admired. Works at the GAA wall were underway at the time of adjudication so we will hold off on judgement. The Hunters Lodge and next door pharmacy were admired for the bold colour scheme and clean surrounds. The library building is clean if a little weathered looking. It would be a nice project to paint the lettering and metal poles while removing a nearby empty pole. Eurospar is a fine building but its surrounds are cluttered with old flagpoles and all manner of signage. The Weavers Inn was looking well with clean facade and flowers. Might they be encouraged to paint the gable wall and repair lettering on the Guinness ad?

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

It wasn't clear from your form whether the sensory garden had been completed or was in the planning phase. It is a wonderful initiative regardless. Your tree and hedge survey is a welcome development, do update us on how you plan to use the findings. O'Regan Park is a jewel in the crown of the town and a treasured place of respite for locals.

It benefits greatly from an abundance of mature trees. Some more recent plantings near the playground may be dead and should be removed. Although the sign for the sensory garden was admired there didn't seem to be specific plants associated with it. The football club grounds are tidy and well presented. Landscaping along the roadside and near the monument though is in need of refreshing.

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

Best of luck with your work to the Lough Gash area. When completed no doubt it would be a fantastic amenity for the local people. Your plans can then move onto how it can be best utilised to raise awareness of the unique features of turlough ecosystems and the species that call it home. The Mooghaun hillfort project seems to date from 2014 and so was no longer relevant from the point of view of awarding points. Are there any events which engage local people in this historic area? The looped walk at Carrigoran Wood sounds most promising, it was unclear however if work had been done in this area since our last visit.

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

It is very impressive that you recycled so many plastic bottles and cups in the aftermath of the Packie Ryan family day. This was positive but even more impressive would be the elimination of this waste entirely. Are there alternatives to plastic bottles for these types of events? Check out the www.greenyourfestival.ie which may have ideas. Well done on the award of the grant for the water harvesting tank, this is really important and could be used to promote similar initiatives elsewhere in Newmarket-on-Fergus. The green flag program is so important and your progress report on each school was read with interest. Well done to each one of them. For more helpful tips and case studies from other Tidy Towns entrants please take a look at <http://localprevention.ie/tidy-towns/>

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

We were unsure what we were looking at in some of the photos so do make sure that they are captioned. You are commended for clearing away the illegally dumped material as well as taking part in the national spring clean. Watch out for litter gathering in the stream running through the park. The bottle bank was clean and tidy on adjudication day. The town is generally neat and tidy but suffers from much overhead wire clutter and uneven footpaths. Much of this is beyond your immediate control but you could encourage business owners to sweep in front of their own buildings on a regular basis. You could also audit bins and seating and refresh where necessary. Litter control was good on adjudication day.

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

Your direct engagement with residential estates is most welcome and the planting of trees for tree week is a nice project. It's great also that you are expanding your network of residential associations to encompass new areas. Reaching out to those who may be unable to maintain their areas is part and parcel of the community spirit which Tidy Towns hopes to promote – good work! A fine estate of homes across from Halpin's garage was admired but appears to have no name. Kilnasoolagh Park is a fine enclave of homes with tidy green spaces but needs more trees. Avondale impressed with its mature trees and gardens.

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

A photo of the work at Knocksaggart would have been welcome to appreciate what was done here. Nor did it appear on your map unfortunately. On approach from Sixmilebridge a host of roses greeted the eye. Sadly an adjacent area had been sprayed with herbicide leaving a band of scorched vegetation. Your committee should work to eliminate this practice due to its harmful effects to the environment and human health. There is a beautifully presented roundabout and picnic area on the Limerick road. More impressive displays of roses were admired here. The approach from Ennis is similarly eye-catching.

Concluding Remarks:

Newmarket-on-Fergus is a fine town with much to offer. You have great plans for the future and you are wished every success in these. Best of luck and we look forward to return in 2017.