

# Tidy Towns Competition 2023

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Feenagh - Fíonach** Ref: **450**  
County: **Limerick** Mark: **288**  
Category: **A** Date(s):

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	33	34
Streetscape & Public Places	80	40	42
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	30	32
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	24	25
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	15	17
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	66	68
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	34	36
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	32	34
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>288</b>

### Community – Your Planning and Involvement / An Pobal - Pleanáil agus Rannpháirtíocht:

Fáilte chuig Comórtas Na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu don bhliain 2023. Táimid buíoch daoibh as ucht na hiontrála a chur chugainn, agus guimíd gach rath ar bhúr gcuid oibre amach anseo. Adh Mór. Welcome to Supervalu Tidy Towns 2023. Thank you for participating again in Tidy Towns. Tidy Towns is good for your community and good for the country.

Your Feenagh Tidy Town kindly related to us that in Irish, Feenagh is Fíonach and it refers to “a plain overgrown with brushwood”. Our Irish language certainly tells us a lot about our landscape. Yours is a small population of 102 residents but it is remarkable for what you have done in your village. You have a Committee of 10 and 10 volunteers, and you have a wide range of support from many different groups. You even have time to work with the Team Hope Shoebox Appeal. You say that this is your second year entering Tidy Towns “after a long hiatus”. Well done.

Your well-presented map – with help from a Secondary School Student - was extremely well presented and accessible.

You say that “there is now progressive improvement in the Streetscape of the village” – that is a good endorsement for Tidy Towns! You move fast - you were a new entrant in Limerick Going for Gold 2022 and you secured a cash prize of €1,000 as well as a €1,000 POBAL funding for a Sensory Garden in Feenagh Park.

### Streetscape & Public Places / Sráid-Dreach & Áiteanna Poiblí:

Being a small rural village can be problematic but in Feenagh there is a sense of making your village even better. This is exemplified by the new Village Park. Across from the Park is the old Carnegie Library, now thankfully protected and used as an office. There are new paths which make the place a safer place to be, and it also makes the streetscape tidier. There are trees everywhere and they make the village a place with an identity. There is seating embedded into the grass banks and some walls also. Even with the inevitable loss of some pubs and housing, there is a feeling that things will improve in Feenagh. There is no feeling of dereliction that is a problem in every town and village. In fact, an original house, Norris House has been restored and is now a home for a family. The Forge Housing Development, completed in 2009 now comprises 14 units. The former Primary School has been repurposed as the Community Centre and adjacent to it the Corran-Deel Voluntary Housing Association has developed a Community Park. Feenagh Primary School has good trees, and which makes the school at one with the overall Feenagh environment.

We noticed one area where the boundary wall to a house is a painted stone wall. On inspection, it would seem a pity that the wall was painted since the wall was constructed of very good and attractive stone.

### Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The Feenagh Park, a wonderful community park is accessible to all and in the heart of the village. It has a small hillock and which, no doubt will be an attraction for children. There are original Whitethorn and other hedgerow plants surrounding the park. In relation to the paths, we would, however wonder if the paths are “accessible to all” and how the pebble path will function for the elderly and wheelchair users. We also wonder about the plastic underlay in the planting beds and which inevitably always “peek” though. We hate to make these critical comments, since the park is a wonderful facility. Feenagh National School undertook the planting of Daffodils in Feenagh Park. The car park includes Disabled Parking. Not far from the Community Centre there is a very well-presented Soccer pitch, and which can be accessed on foot with the new path. There is certainly no feeling of a lack of green space and trees in Feenagh.

### **Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality / An Dúlra agus an Bhithéagsúlacht i do cheantar:**

Feenagh is surrounded by trees, as we mentioned previously. Because of that it has a woodland feel to it. And Feenagh is surrounded by farmland, hedgerows and watercourses. You have contact with the Limerick City and County Council Environment Awareness Officer. You have allowed hedgerows and brambles to thrive. In addition, you have a 3 Stage Grass and Wildflower management plan on the advice of the Environmental Awareness Officer. You are avoiding Insecticide, Fungicides, and Herbicides. You have a Sensory Garden in Feenagh Park and it is a resource for Pollinators. Hazelwood Community College made ten Bird and four Bat boxes for Feenagh Tidy Towns. Even your Primary School is involved in many Nature and Biodiversity projects, including, bird monitoring and wildflower and wildlife areas in the school grounds. The school will also have some bird and bat boxes. This is the way to get young children involved in Nature and Biodiversity.

### **Sustainability – Doing more with less / Inmharthanacht - Mórán ar an mbeagán:**

You attended the Limerick City and County Council Tidy Towns Seminar in February 2023 and you increased your knowledge in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Sustainability is often a problem for Tidy Towns groups in terms of learning and understanding what needs to be done and how to do it. Having the Seminar and indeed more of them, is the way to help the public understand Biodiversity and what it means. We noted that the Feenagh Park has seating that is manufactured from recycled plastic. You have many other Sustainability projects, including, Rainwater Harvesting, growing vegetables in the National School and you have an arrangement to collect old batteries for recycling. You continue to work with Limerick City and Council in relation to recycling generally, and where there is no location in Feenagh currently. Limerick City and County Council have a Sustainable Gardening Course and this was attended by some Committee Members. This is the way to learn about Sustainability.

### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

You have a good programme of Litter picking in Feenagh and you have the support of the Tidy Towns Committee, FÁS workers and Feenagh AFC, to mention a few. On our visit we saw very little litter. Naturally, the Team Limerick Clean Up is a highlight and it seems to percolate into all areas of Tidy Towns in Limerick and Feenagh, of course!

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

All the Residential Streets and Housing Areas are in good condition and are presented very well and despite the empty houses and old shops. It is a good sustainable sign when there is a proposal for new housing next to Feenagh Park. We also saw Feenagh House, an original Farmhouse and its interesting Ivy, built around the 1800s and it looks very well for such an old house and it is great that it has survived.

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

The approach roads, streets and lanes to Feenagh are very attractive and well maintained. There are attractive Biodiversity planting areas associated with the Feenagh name sign as you approach the village and the grass banks from the Name Sign to the Community Council office and beyond is very attractive. And so also as you enter Feenagh from the Dromcollogher approach. We are also delighted with the speed reduction now being 50km. Unfortunately, the local speeds seem to be very excessive.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

Feenagh took us by surprise! It is a wonderful, treed village with a very well-maintained street and old houses, and all mostly in good condition. We do hope that Feenagh thrives.