

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **MAYNOOTH**  
County : **KILDARE**  
Category : **E**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 18-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20
Landscaping	40	20
The Built Environment	40	22
Litter Control	40	15
Tidiness	20	8
Residential Areas	30	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	18
General Impression	10	4
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>159</b>

## Adjudicator's Comments

### OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Welcome to the new format of the 1996 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your detailed questionnaire, which was helpful during the course of adjudication. The adjudicator looks forward to the submission of a detailed five year work programme. The completion of the by-pass and ancillary roadwork facilities has transformed the town of Maynooth, particularly, through the reduction in through-traffic and has given back the town to the residents. This provides the opportunity for the community to shape the future of the town, especially in the refining of the towns unique character as a university and a state town, not to mention its associations with the canal. The detailed programme set out in your entry will contribute greatly to realising this objective - the town plan commissioned by Kildare County Council should act as a blueprint for the future improvement, growth and direction of the town. The input of Kildare County Council and the local community is very much in evidence throughout the town.

### WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The canal and harbour area is a wonderful amenity resource for the town and in itself it constitutes a natural wildlife habitat in its own right. Attractive features noted by the adjudicator included clean water and many attractive water plants. Many flowering water lillies and fish, insects and birds were also evident. However, more could be made of this facility. For example, the provision of information plaques/boards would be both educational and would contribute to the attractiveness of the area and could form features in their own right. There is scope for additional nature conservation throughout the town as well. There is potential for increased nature conservation throughout the town and environs of Maynooth, a good starting point would be to identify the wildlife habitats in your catchment areas and see what species of animals, fish, plants etc. these attract. Why not get involved with your local environmental experts and groups who could advise you and provide you with the specialist information you require.

### LANDSCAPING

Development work has been carried out throughout Maynooth over the past year, including tree planting, for example, at the new hotel/shopping centre. The major new improvements noted at the square are a welcomed improvement and removes this former eyesore. Tree planting has also been noted where roads have been improved, all these have contributed greatly in improving the appearance of the town, as have the landscaping from earlier periods, for example, trees on the Main Street; the University and Carton Amenity Walk. However, attention to detail is all important as many of these locations needed maintenance in weeding, for example, the Celbridge road junction area; base of trees in the square; the entrance area to Carton Walk, which is somewhat shabby; painting of iron work and redressing of walls would help improve this appearance. In terms of landscaping, try to pay more attention to grassed areas, particularly in outlying areas, near housing schemes (long grass was a problem in parts) e.g. at residential park on the Celbridge Road - long grass was noted at the fencing. During the course of adjudication, the adjudicator noted the following in relation to landscaped areas: the new stone walls are very attractive, for example, on the approach from the by-pass bridge; on the Maynooth side of this approach road, the grass needed cutting at time of adjudication. At the Celbridge Road/Maxol Station the unkept weeds detract from the overall appearance. On the Straffan Road, new footpaths and stone walls helped to improve the appearance immensely. Approaching the town square, the cobble locking and wrought iron work is very attractive. The grounds of the University were beautifully kept as were the campus area.

### THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Maynooth has many attractive buildings of note, including the University, several other public buildings, including schools, churches, fire station and, in particular, the Garda Station. There are several other attractively presented buildings located throughout the town, however, there are still too many unsuitable shopfronts and display signs throughout the town. Several premises on the Main Street require painting,

or at least cleaning. The Cattle Mart and Quinnsworth is seedy in appearance. The area outside the Cattle Mart was very badly presented with weeds. The facade and forecourt of Quinnsworth needs attention. The new hotel and shopping area was attractively landscaped, with tree planting noted on the bank but weeds were tending to be a problem here. The rockery at the Maxol Station is a good feature and the forecourt area was clean. The railway station area needed more attention, as litter was evident, weeds were noted by kerbing, the iron railings needed painting and the foot bridge on the canal also needs attention- perhaps a more attractive bridge could be put in its place over time, include this in your work programme. There are several shops still with signage which is out of keeping with the potential attractiveness of the town. Cassidys Pub could be improved. The school grounds were generally well presented. The Holy Spirit Convent was well presented. Centra would benefit from painting. Some hanging baskets and window boxes for business premises would be a major improvement - try to work on this for next year. Additional premises that were well presented included Caddie Shack and The Post Office (Donovans).

#### LITTER CONTROL

Maynooth has a continuing serious litter problem and until the litter problem is tackled more vigorously, Maynooth will not look its best. Litter control and tidiness now comprise 20% of the entire marks under this competition, so it is essential that you tackle this as other towns have done. It can be done, but it takes a co-ordinated and tough approach. Scatterings of litter were evident in many locations throughout the town, including the Main Street; the open gap areas and entrances. Residential estates were noticeable exceptions to this, which may suggest the source of the problem. Additional litter bins would help. A major litter campaign is required for the town. Try to include the university in this, as well as school children.

#### TIDINESS

Considerable improvements have been noted since last years adjudication including several new stretches of stone walls, congratulations. Resurfacing has also helped here. The overall appearance of Maynooth would be considerably enhanced if litter control was improved. Other problems include unkept grass margins/verges on approach roads; more regular sweeping of footpaths, gutters and road margins would considerably sharpen up the appearance of the town. However, there is still room for improvement.

#### RESIDENTIAL AREAS

One of the strongest features of Maynooth was the high standard of presentation of most of the residential areas. The majority were very well maintained, with good approaches, grassed areas, shrubbery and tree planting and several with attractive name signs. A number could be presented to a higher standard, particularly some entrance areas. The dumping of grass/cuttings was noticed opposite stretches on the Clane Road. At the housing scheme on the Celbridge road (Rail Park) mature trees and grassed areas at footpaths were an attractive feature, but long grass at the wooden fencing is unsightly. Rockfield Manor had a similar presentation. At the entrance to Greenfield Estate, weeding was needed. Parsons Lodge was very attractive, as was Parson Court Woodlands, Newtown Court, Beaufield. At the new estate on Moyglare Road, several trees on the grass verge needed replacing.

#### ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The majority of approaches, the Clane Road, Old Dublin Road and Pitch & Putt Road, would have benefited from more attention in terms of neater grass verges. Many of the road signs were also in need of attention, as they needed cleaning or painting. The footpath on the Main Street is another area that is unsatisfactory, the practice of parking cars on the footpath itself should be discontinued as soon as possible as it takes from the overall appearance. The plans to cobble lock these footpaths would be a major welcomed improvement - ensure bollards are put in place to avoid parking on the. On some of the back streets, for example, Pound Street were neat and tidy and litter free, well done in this regard. The tree lined Main Street is very attractive. There are several items of street furniture on the Main Street

which could be improved - for example, cast iron green pump. The new square is a major improvement. In regard to the by-pass, the approach roads off the by-pass are a major improvement - some works are not yet completed so, perhaps, it will be next year before the results of this are fully noted. Tree planting on the motorway is also a welcomed improvement.

#### GENERAL IMPRESSION

Considerable improvements were noted since last years adjudication, however more attention to detail is needed. Litter control and maintenance of grassed areas, margins and weeds at base of kerbs and stone walls reflected lack of attention. Weed control, in general, needs more attention also. However, the adjudicator commends the considerable improvements that have been made to Maynooth in the last year and wishes the committee and residents, in partnership with the commercial sector, every success as the adjudicator is confident that Maynooth will see major improvements over the years to come.