

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **MOATE**
County : **WESTMEATH**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 03-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13
Landscaping	40	20
The Built Environment	40	21
Litter Control	40	20
Tidiness	20	10
Residential Areas	30	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21
General Impression	10	5
TOTAL MARK	300	152

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Moate must step up its efforts in the Competition if it is to progress to the extent that it can. The town has reached a reasonable standard but it does not seem to be able to progress. You have a good platform which can be built upon but you must bring the wider community with you. You must continue your efforts to maximise support from state agencies such as the Local Authority and FAS. It is noted that the Local Authority is preparing a streetscape plan for Moate and this is welcomed. However, you should consider a wider plan which would also take in side streets, housing areas, approach roads, etc. as a lot of work needs to be done in these areas as well.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

This is a new section in the competition and in many cases up to now has not received as much attention as it deserves. Trees, hedgerows and gardens are all important habitats and indeed there may be other in the area. It is noted that you have a group working in this area and hopefully the insurance problems, etc. can be overcome.

LANDSCAPING

The landscaping throughout the town is generally on a small scale and consists of varying sizes of flower beds, most of which are colourful and well planted. Examples of these can be seen on the Athlone road, in the vicinity of the Moate Farm Stores, at the main road entrance to Windmill Lawns, at Station road junction and on the bend approaching the level crossing of the Mount Temple road. There are flower beds also in the town centre in the vicinity of the Fire Station but these tend to be obscured by parked cars and a number of them appear to be under planted. There is a shrubbery on either side of the Clara/Ballycumber road junctions but one at least of these shrubberies need weeding. The wide footpaths in main street are suitable for trees and a tree planting programme with suitable species should be implemented which in due course could become a very attractive feature of the town centre. At present there are a number of trees of varying quality planted in the footpaths; a number of these are dead, others appear to have been cut down and others are struggling. The mature trees at the Crescent on the Ballymore road are attractive but more regular cutting of the grass would heighten the overall affect.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Most of the public buildings, schools, churches, etc. are well presented and several have attractive, well maintained grounds. There are also many attractive commercial properties in the town with simple but effective frontages. The Grand Hotel is one example but there are a large number of others. However there are still far too many advertising hoardings, display signs and unsightly shop fronts and many premises require painting. The streetscape plan will play an important part in upgrading the main street; hopefully it will be widely supported by the business community. It is a pity to see the Railway Station with its unique wooden signal box deteriorating and while trains no longer use the line it would be a pity if this historic building was allowed to deteriorate beyond repair.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter remains a problem in Moate and you must step up your anti litter campaign. A scattering of litter was visible in most parts of the town on the day of inspection but was particularly evident in side streets and wind gap areas. Many of the litter bins were in a poor condition and this cannot help. Additional litter bins are also required, you might seek sponsorship from the business community in this regard.

TIDINESS

The overall impression of Moate is mixed. Superficially the town can give a tidy appearance but on

closer inspection this is not the case. The good points are the many brightly painted and well presented business premises and private houses but inadequately maintained side roads and lack of attention to detail tend to negate many of the good points.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There are very many well presented houses and gardens throughout the town. These include brightly painted town houses and most of the suburban houses also have attractive gardens. However a large number need to maintain gravelled areas and grassed areas between boundary wall and road; examples of this can be seen throughout Moate but are particularly evident on the Mount Temple road. Windmill Lawns set the standard in maintaining public and grassed areas with a very high standard of maintenance. The grass is cut in St. Patrick Crescent but to look its best needs to be cut on a more regular basis. There was also quite an amount of litter in this area.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Improvements are needed on all the approach roads. The Athlone road is the best maintained with its new footpaths and closely cut grass and trees. There are noteworthy points on the Dublin road including well maintained footpaths and grassed margins. However, long grass is obscuring the Super Valu town sign and detract from the maturing trees in this area. Additional trees could be planted in the wide margins approaching the Clara junction. The wooden fencing at the amenity area at the Clara junction is in need of considerable repair and painting. Mount Temple approach must be considered a black spot. Many of the wide gravelled areas and margins are extremely weedy. Stretches of stone walls are obscured by nettles and weeds. Considerable new housing development has taken place on this road. In front of several of these houses new footpaths have been provided. Some of the grassed areas here are cut regularly and others less frequently, however the overall effect is unsatisfactory. Many of the directional signs and other signs throughout the town need cleaning as do the poles. An example of this are the signs on the Athlone/Mount Temple road junction.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

You must try and tackle problem areas on a planned basis. Priority areas include improved litter control, tackling the approach roads particularly the minor approaches and improvements can also be made in the presentation of the main street.