

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **MONASTEREVIN**
County : **KILDARE**
Category : **D**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 09-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27	27
The Built Environment	40	21	21
Landscaping	40	27	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	19
Litter Control	40	15	15
Tidiness	20	8	8
Residential Areas	30	19	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	18	18
General Impression	10	5	4
TOTAL MARK	300	159	157

Monasterevin, Co. Kildare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Monasterevin is a town with many important natural and man made features, e.g. the Barrow, the canal and aqueduct, stone warehouses etc. The town also has many fine buildings and a lot to offer. The decline of the canal as a mode of transporting goods has had serious repercussions for the town which it has not yet fully overcome in that buildings associated with the navigation have found no alternative use and most have become derelict. The huge volumes of passing road traffic also create difficulties as well as opportunities. It is probably more important, if that is possible, for Monasterevin than most towns to plan its overall development approach. The submission of a development plan as part of your tidy towns approach would be helpful and could also be a valuable means of generating wider support in the community and from state agencies.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

In many ways the impressive disused and derelict stone warehouses and canal buildings still dominate Monasterevin. These buildings are on the Main Street as well as near the canal. Hopefully these buildings can be preserved and restored with a practical use made of them. St. Peter's and Paul's Church has an impressive facade which is presently being restored. An attractive ornamental iron entrance gate noted at Church of Ireland. The town has several attractive shop frontages some of these include Cullen's Factory shop, Gahan's Tavern, Mooneys, The Flick, Moll's Diner, the Bank of Ireland, etc. The Hazel Hotel and its grounds also look well.

LANDSCAPING

The riverside park is most attractive with its neatly maintained grass, well planted shrubbery, picnic tables and childrens play facilities. However, the adjoining canal and river bank area is not up to this standard. The stone work on the aqueduct is weedy and the metal work on the railway bridge is rusty. However, the stone bridge upstream from the railway bridge with its fine arches looks well. Grass is well maintained on the canal bank but as you move over the aqueduct, things rapidly deteriorate. Developing a riverside walk between the aqueduct and the road bridge upstream would be attractive.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The Barrow and the canal are very important natural amenities and wild life habitats and it is in these areas that you should concentrate most of your efforts. Mature trees, shrubs and hedgerows are also important and should not be neglected.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter is a problem in the town. On the day of inspection litter was visible in most parts of Monasterevin approach road particularly

the Edenderry roads, the town centre and other side roads. Litter control must be given priority - additional litter bins would help.

TIDINESS

Big improvements can be made under this heading. Some items are potentially easier to deal with than others. Better litter control, more regular sweeping of footpaths and gutters, weeding, kerbing and stone walls would help a lot. Empty and derelict buildings will take longer.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There are many very well presented houses throughout the town. Many also have colourful gardens. The 2 and 3 storied Georgian houses facing the canal and in other parts of the town are important. There are also several attractively landscaped housing schemes, e.g. Brook Lawns, Woodview and others.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The trees, neatly cut grass along side Moore Abbeys wall on the Dublin road is noteworthy. Moore Abbeys impressive cut stone entrance at the Athy junction is magnificent. It is a pity that the white wooden ornamental gate is beginning to deteriorate. The ornamental iron railings at Moore Abbeys entrance in the town centre are most attractive. Weedy footpath kerbings are noticeable in many parts of the town but particularly on the Cork road almost to the Hazel Hotel. The small stream running for a considerable distance on the Rathangan road could be an attractive feature. A start could be made by removing long weeds from the low stone boundary wall. The mature trees are an attractive feature at the cemetery entrance. The draw bridge at the aqueduct is of great interest and is well presented. Most of the street furniture throughout the town needs repair and painting. The cross is an attractive feature in the town.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Monasterevin is a town with many interesting features. It will take time and much effort to bring the town to best advantage. Try and plan your approach and generate as much local support as possible.