

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **MOONE**
County : **KILDARE**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 20-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	28
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	25	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	14
Litter Control	40	27	27
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	16	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	181	178

Moone, Co. Kildare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your entry form and map. The adjudicators did not receive your 3 - 5 year Tidy Towns plan and look forward to its submission for next year. You have a strong heritage theme within the village, having Moone High Cross nearby. It is good to see that the High Cross has been moved to a more appropriate setting. Can you incorporate bilingualism into the village in any way?

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Moone High Cross Inn, while outside the boundary, was a very nice building and well presented. The school grounds are well maintained, but the premises and boundary wall could be painted. The church grounds were very well presented; well done. The traditional lamps, as mentioned in previous reports, have a nice effect. A new An Post sign was noted outside Walls Mini Market. Well done in this regard and try to continue to make further improvements to brighten up the presentation of this building, as it would undoubtedly attract increased business from passing trade. The Community Hall is also a building that needs to be improved.

LANDSCAPING

A new landscaped flower bed was noted at the turn off to Athy. While outside the boundary, it was good to see efforts being made by the Moone High Cross Inn. A nice rockery was also noted. Within the village itself, the pump area was nicely maintained with good landscaping treatment here - try to paint the seat as it would improve its appearance. Could any other grassed areas be improved - particularly along the approach roads?

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Conserving nature is a new venture for many towns and can appear daunting at first. The adjudicators recognise that environmental programmes can take time to get up and running and even longer to assess their success. This section of the competition requires an involvement of all groups, including schools in the village. The emphasis is on the conservation and enhancement of wildlife habitats and the environment. Woodlands, rivers, ponds, hedgerows, open spaces, graveyards and walls are important habitats. The committee needs to identify the habitats in their area and then determine the appropriate actions to conserve and enhance these habitats. Guidelines in the Tidy Towns book offer other suggestions as to the type of initiatives you might undertake. Is there a local wildlife expert, or a member of the community with experience in this area, that your committee can draw on? In preparing an environmental programme for the village, there should be a year-round participation in environmental protection and promotion involving all members of the community and providing access for all. The

next step is to identify what habitats are in your area - are there woodlands, wetlands, grasslands, or other habitats such as urban spaces, cemeteries, walls etc. Prepare a survey and map, showing the areas of wildlife importance and areas of future importance, e.g. school grounds and gardens, derelict sites etc. Other steps involved in the preparation of the environmental programme for Moone would include identification of the flora and fauna in the area, preparation of a wildlife management plan as part of the area development plan and identification of the tasks to be carried out including conservation projects, wildlife gardens, areas of conservation, access, tree planting, information areas etc. This must be carried out in sympathy with the local landscape and must not be overwhelming visually, or environmentally. More tree planting is needed on the approach roads. If you consider the lovely effect of approaching along Belon Avenue, the visual effect of the mature trees creates a very positive impression. Also, the River Griese is an important wildlife habitat, and one which was admired by the adjudicators on the way up to Moone High Cross.

LITTER CONTROL

Sprinklings of litter were noted; the area outside the telephone kiosk was just one example. Litter was also noted on the grassed area opposite the school, and some was noted around Walls Mini Market. A little bit of effort here could go a long way in creating a much improved appearance.

TIDINESS

It is good to see new finger post signs, which all help to improve the appearance and give a tidy effect. The door of the phone kiosk could be painted or replaced, as it takes from the overall appearance. Generally, there is good road surfacing and footpaths within the village, which helps to improve the appearance - try to work on the approach roads.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Good individual efforts are noted throughout the village again this year. Try to watch weeds. The Tidy Towns Committee might approach owners with regard to developing an Adopt-a-Spot where residents might take on responsibility of maintaining or improving the presentation where their premises front out onto the main road.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

On the approach road from Castledermot, grass could be better maintained. It is good to see that there is a country market every Friday. Ragwort seems to be over-visible here. Approaching from Belon Avenue, a very nice appearance is created with overhanging trees. New junction signs were noted, as were new 40 MPH signs. The grassed area was relatively well maintained. Try to remove the barrel from outside the telephone exchange. Approaching from Timolin, at the 40 MPH sign, clear the weeds from walls outside houses. There is also a need for footpaths along this area and, perhaps, traffic calming measures. On Belon Avenue, it is good to see that improvements have been made here.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The general impression is that there is relatively a tidy appearance. It is only through the efforts of the Tidy Towns Committee and the community that further enhancements will be made. The local authority seem to have done considerable work on one approach road, and throughout the village in terms of lamp posts and resurfacing. In this regard, the village is small, and, thus, if there is enough support, projects can be developed much easier. Good luck for 1998.