

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **MONEENROE**
County : **KILKENNY**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 16-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	28
The Built Environment	40	22	21
Landscaping	40	28	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	16
Litter Control	40	36	36
Tidiness	20	14	13
Residential Areas	30	21	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	29
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	203	195

Moneenroe, Co. Kilkenny

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

A very comprehensive report was submitted to you last year and many of the comments therein are still applicable. 1997 comments should be read in conjunction with that report. It was suggested in 1996 that a 5-Year Development Plan might be drawn up. This could be a simple plan, 3 to 5 pages at the most with a map and setting out realistic objectives which the Committee can achieve. There is no need to engage a professional consultant to do this. It is something which the Committee could readily prepare themselves. In this instance an input from the Local Authority or other local bodies and the local community would be desirable. In the meantime, your comments on the entry form have been fully noted including those regarding the paperwork. From an adjudication point of view it is, however, necessary to get as much information as possible so that, on adjudication day, the adjudicator is in full possession of details of all aspects of the work of the Committee in order to have a balanced approach to the marking.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Comments made under this heading in the 1996 report are still applicable. Your efforts in relation to derelict sites however were noted and again your Committee are to be congratulated on keeping up this excellent work !

LANDSCAPING

With such a strung out area Moneenroe would lend itself to judicious landscaping through tree and shrub planting. In that event, however, what is called for is judicious planting with species which enhance the Irish urban environment while at the same time respecting wildlife needs. What you have achieved already has been remarkably well done but further landscaping needs to be planned carefully and should be part of any 5-Year Plan which you hope to develop.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Your continued good work regarding hedge-cutting at times when birds are not nesting is noted. It could be interesting however for you to identify wildlife habitat in your extensive area which could be earmarked for conservation and these can include woodlands, rivers, ponds, hedgerows, grass margins, open spaces, graveyards and walls. In this connection perhaps there is a local wildlife expert or a member of your community with experience in this area that your Committee could draw on. Guidelines in the Tidy Towns book offer other suggestions as to the type of initiatives you might undertake. Your comments regarding the provision of a viewing area have also been noted and your Committee is to be congratulated on this initiative.

LITTER CONTROL

There was little or no evidence on adjudication day. Congratulations to all concerned. The support of Kilkenny County Council in supplying skips for rubbish collection is to be applauded and you should continue to work closely with them on other environmental matters.

TIDINESS

Bearing in mind the large area involved, Moneenroe looked very tidy on adjudication day, although some of the comments made in last years report is still applicable. Efforts to kill off weeding under the post and wire fences were noted. In this respect work in progress was noted on adjudication day.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The vast majority of the homes were again very well presented. It is obvious that in Moneenore the co-operation of the individual householders is absolutely essential and this seems to be, in the main, largely forthcoming. There are a few houses which could be encouraged to provide better presentation but these are the exception more than the rule. It would be impossible to comment on so many individual houses other than to say well done to all concerned.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Road surfaces were again very good but verges were somewhat overgrown. Investigate the possibility of asking Kilkenny County Council to provide a verge cutting facility to you in the early part of the year. In the normal way this is done by the Committee but, in your case, because of the area involved, the adjudicator recognises that it would be an enormous task.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

In spite of the difficulties of the area involved, Moneenroe is improving every year.