

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **MONAGHAN TOWN**
County : **MONAGHAN**
Category : **E**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 09-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	20	10
The Built Environment	40	22	20
Landscaping	40	12	10
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	10	2
Litter Control	40	17	15
Tidiness	20	8	4
Residential Areas	30	17	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	20
General Impression	10	5	2
TOTAL MARK	300	131	99

Monaghan Town, County Monaghan

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The adjudicator was pleased to note that Monaghan Urban District Council is no longer the lone promoter of Tidy Towns in Monaghan and that a new initiative is in place with the co-operation of all sectors of the community. You have responded magnificently to the recommendations in last year's report and you are commended for this. In your first year as a committee you have identified many opportunities for progress. However, a large busy town like Monaghan will require a new focus in terms of strategy and in this regard the putting together of a 3/5 year work programme supported by the community, business interests, local authority etc. is the way forward. Thank you for the completed questionnaire and map - very necessary and much appreciated by the adjudicator.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Monaghan Town has many attractive buildings including the Courthouse, Bank of Ireland, Westerna Arms, Tourist Office, Presbyterian Church, Cathedral and Andy's to mention but a few. SuperValu was tastefully presented (well done); nice to see the Tidy Towns sponsor setting the standard. The Monaghan Shopping Centre impressed the adjudicator and hopefully the many new buildings under construction will be equally as pleasing to the eye. Flower tubs inside the railings of Lakeside Hotel would enhance the appearance of this premises. You are making good progress in improving the standard of signage on business premises and this is improving the streetscape. However, there is still an undesirable amount of plastic signs on view. To further enhance the presentation of buildings you should consider introducing a competition for the best kept premises in such categories as finance house, filling station, government building, retail outlet etc. It has worked well in other large towns.

LANDSCAPING

Last year's observations still remain. The Dublin, Cootehill and Clones approaches are landscaped to satisfaction and are making a real impact. However, some planted areas are not being maintained and this is regrettable in view of the investment undertaken by the public and private sectors. On a brighter note the adjudicator is full of praise for the impressive landscaping carried out at Hillgrove and the Four Seasons Hotels, the Convent and the Cathedral also have an attractive and well cared for presentation - flowers, shrubs, hanging baskets and young trees maturing nicely being noted features. Identify other suitable areas for landscaping with emphasis on tree planting and shrubs for year round effect. The many open spaces on the Derry Road have an uncared for presentation and are not a welcoming feature of the town. The planted area at the top of Hill Street is in a state of neglect and requires immediate attention because of its prominent location. Monaghan will benefit greatly under this heading if a worthwhile work programme can be identified and the

initiative at St. Peter's Lake will do just that if it is sensibly managed.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

A good starting point here is St. Peter's Lake which has a prominent location in the centre of town. The adjudicator noted work in progress and this is commendable. The amenity value of the lake and its environs will be up-graded significantly as a result. As a tidy towns committee you have an important role to play in protecting and enhancing the wildlife value of your community. St. Peters Lake has so much to offer in this regard it should have a priority under this heading as a rejuvenated wildlife sanctuary and amenity area.

LITTER CONTROL

Improvements in litter control were noted, thanks to the obvious success of your Community Clean Up programme. However, there are still some problem areas and the entire town should be designated a litter free zone. Litter control is a year round exercise and should be supported by an adequate supply of litter bins suitably located for that purpose. Your efforts under this heading have been rewarded with an increase in marks. Well done.

TIDINESS

The adjudicator was pleased to note some improvements under this heading but wishes to point out there is still a lot of work required to achieve an overall acceptable level of tidiness. Improve the presentation of street furniture and discourage the storage of beer kegs on footpaths. The presentation of litter bins needs up-grading and signposting in some areas would look fresher if cleaned. Give tidiness a priority rating in your work programme for next year.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Residential properties in general were well maintained and in many cases have attractively landscaped gardens with colourful flower beds and maturing shrubs. Housing estates were also well presented including Beech Grove, Glenview (Children Play Area) and new estates on Clones Road and past Hillgrove Hotel. All new estates should be attractively landscaped before the owners move in and all unused materials removed from site.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

All approach roads were maintained well except for the Armagh and Derry approaches. Untidy verges and unattractive open spaces in need of attention are the main problems here. Regular trimming is needed to keep margins looking well and advance signs should not be screened by overgrown hedging or long grass. The new directional signposting is most attractive - well done to the local authority.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

As you now have established a new working relationship with

Monaghan U.D.C., I.C.A., Business Sector, Schools etc. you should commission a 3/5 year plan which will prioritise your work programme and identify opportunities for participation by community groups. Establish sub-committees and identify projects that will create real impact in the short term. As you stated in your supporting documentation, this year was geared to highlighting public awareness as to the importance of a clean and tidy environment. Next year the adjudicator will be looking for positive action on the ground. Best wishes with your endeavours and support your local authorities to the full.