

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **MONAGEER**
County : **WEXFORD**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 30-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	24	20
The Built Environment	40	27	24
Landscaping	40	26	23
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	12
Litter Control	40	25	23
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	12	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	22
General Impression	10	4	5
TOTAL MARK	300	164	159

Monangeer, Co. Wexford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The application form was very informative in providing updated information on the projects but this must be supported by a thorough report highlighting the goals and objectives of the Committee so as to understand the larger picture of the Committee's role in the village. The general approach is one of a strong control over the complete extent of the town and new projects are easily seen as marked improvements, while past projects do not suffer from being left behind. This reflects a very balanced concern to both past and future projects which provides an integrated and long term approach. The emphasis in developing a strong image along the main street is very well handled and an overall master plan for 3-5 years would be helpful in ensuring a consistent approach.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The presentation of all the buildings along the main street is very well handled with the school and GAA grounds very much a focus of attention to an important location on the street. Improvements to the Church, such as the introduction of a new ramp, demonstrate that barrier-free design is an objective and can be easily extended to some of the kerb area. There is a very pleasant random street character established by the housing as it rises over the hill.

LANDSCAPING

The existing plantings around the school and GAA grounds are very well tended and reflect a great concern for the external appearance of these facilities. The level of care given to these spaces extends to the new park which is being brought together but is not ready for assessment yet. The very pleasant setting of the grotto makes for a most important feature at the end of the main street and entry sequence into the town and is very well maintained. Concern must be expressed for the placement of some planted areas that seem rather out of context from the general approach taken, such as the planting of a colourful flower arrangement at the base of the E.S.B. pole at the entry to the town. This draws attention to the pole and does not match the standard of plantings in other areas. Perhaps using less colourful plants might be more harmonious and better integrate with the grotto.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

This is an area of the 3-5 year report which can emphasise the approach that is being taken to develop or extend this resource. One of the problems with this issue is not to make efforts seem forced. There is a very strong connection with the surrounding countryside in this village which provides ample opportunities for addressing this element. Consideration should be given to the policy of planting more native plants and not as many exotics or

short term plants. The use of wild flowers is often both easier to maintain and provides longer periods of colour. The grotto is an example of developing a natural setting which must be commended. The future treatment of the new park will provide an opportunity in future years to integrate and extend concerns associated with this issue.

LITTER CONTROL

All areas were free of litter which imply an effective litter policy. There may be a need for some litter bins to be placed in strategic areas, such as beside the recycling bins as they can reduce the continual attention required at litter source points.

TIDINESS

The efforts of the litter control programme should also extend to ensuring that road surfaces are free of loose gravel. In general the main street was tidy but areas around the Church require a more diligent approach. Of concern is the placement of the re-cycling bins which visually detract from the setting of the Church and in themselves are not properly levelled. Consideration should be given to either screening them or re-locating them.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There is a range of garden standards which all contribute to a relaxed entry sequence to the village. Some residences may need to be more involved with the presentation of the kerbs so that an element of continuity can be established along the main street. The grounds of the presbytery provide a very pleasant park setting, while some of the gardens allow for very good seasonal colour to be enjoyed by all.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Entry roads into the village are very pleasant though their presentation varies in level of maintenance, particularly at the top of the hill. There is an easy transition from the surrounding countryside which should be retained and encouraged, such as further planting of native trees and a standard approach to grass kerb sides. Loose gravel on the roads is in need of attention.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

At present the village is developing some important spaces which are not yet completed, while other areas have a long established element of care. Of concern is how the Committee will develop its goals for a 3-5 year programme so that the most significant issues are dealt with and integrated with existing environment.