

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **MONIVEA**
County : **GALWAY**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 19-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	38
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	27	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	25	24
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	16	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	28
General Impression	10	7	8
TOTAL MARK	300	199	194

Monivea, County Galway

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The Visual Study commissioned by the Monivea Tidy Towns Committee makes exceptionally absorbing reading. Such an enterprising step underlines the serious and imaginative thinking behind this entry. The comments made below reflect what was seen on adjudication day - it is worth adding that it is three or four years since this adjudicator was in Monivea and the improvements are immediately eye-catching. Congratulations on the continuing effort.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

There do not seem to be many improvements to buildings over the past year - indeed, few are necessary. ('Walls' are usually taken under 'Roads, etc'). The principal buildings were looking very well - the signage on the Parish Hall and the Take-away still need attention, and the offstreet side of the Hall could be painted to advantage. The school does seem to have a rather temporary look. Because the ruined church tower is such a landmark, it would be well worth while restoring it as a long-term (and expensive) project, including replacement of crenellation and the two missing pinnacles. ('Refer to 82' is mentioned in the Visual Study, but there is no '82' in this copy, which skips from 81 to 85; this comment may not accord with those of the author, but is made with the best intentions.)

LANDSCAPING

The greens are of course central to Monivea in every sense: it is good to see that the temptation to create flowerbeds has been resisted. Grass was very trim on adjudication day. It is not recommended that the greens should be entered for the national Heritage award at this stage - to make the greens attain the standard required, the tennis courts and playground would have to be removed and resited elsewhere. (It is interesting that this view should also be expressed in the Study.) Nonetheless, the tennis courts and playground were seen to be well looked after. The shrubberies at the Galway end of the village looked extremely attractive. There is ample space for further tree-planting on the generously wide and well-kept verges of the Menlough and Galway roads.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The remarks of last year's adjudicator are appropriate. It is good to read in your answers to the questionnaire that this topic is being actively researched. With its strong pastoral and sylvan surroundings Monivea is an ideal centre for developments in this category.

LITTER CONTROL

There was very little appreciable litter on adjudication day. Your educational programme is obviously taking effect.

TIDINESS

Ongoing building works have been taken into consideration. A corrugated iron shed to the left of a large house on the Green looked untidy (not to be confused with the large corrugated barn which is fine.) There is a rather untidy open yard off the Athenry road.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Village centre houses are very well kept. Several of those on approach roads have pleasantly planted gardens. There are some weedy frontages at the small estate on the school road, and the verges opposite are not of the standard of elsewhere. The variety of old and new house types seem to blend well together, possibly because they are so well spaced.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Surfaces are generally good. Stone walls are most impressive; the new stone wall at the house adjacent to the Monivea Woods entrance is superb and makes an appropriate statement at the termination of the village prospect. Where concrete block walls exist, they should be gradually replaced by stone, as finances allow. The concrete roadside wall opposite the school might be painted as a temporary measure.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A spacious and well laid-out village, improving annually in a remarkable way.