

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 27-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	22	20
The Built Environment	40	23	22
Landscaping	40	16	12
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	10
Litter Control	40	18	17
Tidiness	20	8	8
Residential Areas	30	17	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	20
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	144	131

Monaghan Town, County Monaghan

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

This adjudicator would like to thank you for your completed questionnaire and map, which were very helpful. Your additional information regarding the Junior Club was very interesting and the committee is to be commended for their innovative approach to including young people in the work of the Tidy Towns Committee. Your work programme was also noted, but appeared to concentrate on the Landscaping, Wildlife and Litter aspects of the town. The Tidy Towns Committee should now begin to consider the other important aspects of the town in tandem with those other important areas identified. The idea of a simple long term work programme for the town as part of the competition entry, is to outline achievable targets for the committee, that will help focus their work in the future. Your plan could perhaps include a concise table, that would list your identified target areas, the work intended, and the time-frame involved. Then, at a glance, both the committee and adjudicator can measure the progress to date, and identify the targeted areas where development has still to take place. Your continued relationship with community organisations and local bodies is also to be commended, and shows a thorough and committed approach to developing your fine town.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Monaghan has some interesting features, and the new developments taking place, will further enhance the town. The overall presentation of both commercial and private premises in the town, was generally good on the day of adjudication. The many attractive shop fronts contribute to the streetscape, but the committee must continue their good efforts in promoting the improvement and quality of signage, and presentation of premises. There is still a lot of plastic signs and poorly presented premises in the town. The Church of Ireland, The Cathedral and grounds, and Presbyterian Church, all looked well. Some buildings among many, that caught the eye, included The Western Arms, Cosy Corner, Courthouse Bar & Lounge, Top Kapi Jewellers, Ashleigh B&B and SuperValu, all attractively presented with floral features. The First National and adjoining offices were two older buildings that looked particularly well maintained and presented, with some lovely flowers. The public toilets at the Court House need to be refurbished. Your access facilities were noted in the SuperValu and the shopping Centres, but shops must be discouraged from putting products on the street as they interfere with access. The K B Pet Shop in Dublin Street had some pet products on the street, pubs should also be discouraged from storing barrels in public access areas.

The Shopping Centre also looks well, and the new buildings close by will add to the area.

LANDSCAPING

Whilst acknowledging the obvious improvements in this category. Many of last year's comments still apply. This adjudicator noted the praiseworthy work of the Junior Clubs planting scheme on the Cootehill Road, and is pleased to read that they will continue to design and plant further beds. The landscaping and planting in the Shopping Centre Car is lovely, with a selection of plants that will provide colour and content throughout the year. The area around the recycling bins was noted. Well done to those involved. There is still scope for some planting to screen those other back yards, with some plants or hedging. The tubs outside the Courthouse need to be cleaned, and the shrub bed on the Clones Road, past the roundabout, needs to be tidied, as does some of the other, older planting schemes in the town. It is as important to maintain your landscape features as it is to develop them. The Killygoan Playground looks well, but it needs a litter bin. Street furnishing throughout the town needs attention, with many seats in particular needing their paint refreshed. There are still plenty of further opportunities for planting throughout the town. These have been identified, and the appointment of a permanent horticulturist by the U.D.C., complete with a three year planting scheme is good news. The idea of cultivating your own plants is also a good idea and gives the committee further scope for developing the landscape features in the town. We look forward to continued progress in this area.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The town is fortunate to have St. Peters Lake as a natural amenity so close and accessible to the Town Centre. The work completed by the UDC looks very well. Your constructive approach to its development is noted, with many aspects of this amenity considered. This adjudicator was pleased to note the idea of an access point for disabled anglers, and your association with the Angling Club. When all this work is fully completed it will be a lovely feature.

LITTER CONTROL

Your continued work, PR efforts and good relationship with U.D.C are paying dividends in this area. There was some litter evident in the town on the day of adjudication, and a little sporadic litter on some of the approach roads. Untidy open spaces and alleyways will always attract litter, and must not be overlooked. The bins were generally tidy and in good order. Continue your education programme with the young people; it is a worthwhile effort. Also continue your community tidy up sessions as they reinforce the whole communities responsibility in this very important area. Vigilance is crucial to maintain and improve the performance in this category.

TIDINESS

There is still a lot of work and attention required to improve the level of tidiness throughout the town. Seats and street furniture

need to be tidied and painted throughout the town. Some back yards in the Car Park mentioned earlier, and the area opposite the back entrance to the Car Park also need to be tidied and screened. Signs on the approach roads need to be refreshed and the area around them tidied, so that they can be seen. The wall in the Glaslough Car Park also needs to be repaired. The simple little Grotto at the Church could be further enhanced if the area around it was also tidied up. It is important to keep the forecourts, yards, boundary walls and alleyways tidy and weed free throughout the town, and appropriately screened by suitable gates and fences. Backyards and gates should also be kept clean and tidy. The committee needs to draw on its good relationship with U.D.C, local business and the community in general to focus their attention on this area for next year.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Many houses throughout the town and on approach roads were well presented, with attractive hedges, lawns and flower features. This included many of the homes on the housing developments, with some houses having very attractive gardens and flowers, which highlighted other homes that might need some attention. The first estate on the Cootehill Road needs to tidy its shrub beds. The open spaces on the approach to Beach Grove need to be tidied, and the builders sheds need to be removed on final completion of the site. The Tully Estate was well presented, grass and flowerbeds well maintained, but the old phone box could be painted. Glenview also looked well, but the entrance from the Ballybay road needs to be tidied. Fairview and Dr. Mc Cartan Tce, had tidy open spaces but the roads and footpaths need some attention. The new estate past the Hillgrove also looked well. This adjudicator acknowledges your efforts to promote awareness within all the housing developments, and encourages you to continue this work.

ROADS STREETS AND BACK AREAS

As the approach roads are the first impression a visitor gets of the village, they deserve particular consideration. All the approach roads were generally well presented, except for the Armagh and Derry approaches. The verges and open green areas, all need to be tidied up, and their grass cut. Tidying the signs on some approach roads was already mentioned, as was weed control at footpaths and walls.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Monaghan continues to steadily develop. Tidiness and attention to detail remain very important issues for the committee. Last years comments are still valid regarding priorities, and projects that will create real impact in the short term. The committee has demonstrated its ability in this area already, and should now be able to expand on this experience. Your partnership with local bodies, community organisations and the Junior Club is showing good effect, well done long may it continue. We look forward to

further progress in the implementation of the plans and targets for 1999.