

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **MAYNOOTH**
County : **KILDARE**
Category : **E**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 18-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	31
The Built Environment	40	30	24
Landscaping	40	21	20
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	21
Litter Control	40	17	16
Tidiness	20	8	8
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	17	17
General Impression	10	6	4
TOTAL MARK	300	178	164

Maynooth, County Kildare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you very much for the completed entry form and the submission of your document entitled the First Steps. This really is a very well presented journal and highlights many of the contemporary issues impacting on the town. Though its production is to a very high quality it should be seen that the three to five year plan is a live document and that this publication must be updated each year to assist in adjudication of the most recent events.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Shops in the main street look very well and the new street improvements really add to the town setting. Perhaps the advertising sign at the entry to the main street from Leixlip is overpowering and should be rescaled. The back lanes are presentable, however, there is a need to tidy up the junctions between private property and public road.

LANDSCAPING

It should be considered that the potted plants on top of the town square arches should be removed as these are a danger. The canal walk is very well maintained with the mown grass along the edge of the paths and though the space looks well, it could do with more amenity planting, as the canal is no longer an industrial feature but more an amenity space. The graveyard is very well presented but do not lose the charm and character associated with the old part. In the area of new graves, structural planting should be considered to give a sense of enclosure for these areas.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

This category is not well covered in either the entry form or First Steps and really is something that must be discussed in the three to five year development plant. It is noted that new wildlife habitats will be created along Carton Avenue but more detail should be given as to what direction this is taking. The natural setting along the road verges into the town is very effective and produces significant colour and this too should be described more from a management point of view.

LITTER CONTROL

This aspect is varied. The bins in general were cleared on the day of adjudication but there were quite a number of areas with large pieces of litter. However, it is perhaps the

small pieces of paper that get wedged onto surfaces that are visually most unattractive. In general though there are improvements about the town.

TIDINESS

The main street is still under construction but the signs of improvement of an urban setting have been very effective. One needs to wait for the completion of the scheme to properly adjudicate these set of works and how they marry with the efforts of the Tidy Town.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Pebble Hill is very new but it should look well in future years. Glen Royal landscaping is very good and Rail Park has a very mature setting and where there are no walls between the roads and private gardens, there is a very effective landscape character produced. Parsons Lodge is very neat and the Green Hill Estate has good setting however, the shops do provide a very hard impact at the entry into this area and perhaps could do with better integration of mature plants and trees. Carton Court has a similar character to Rail Park while at Kingsbry there is very effective screening along the main road but management of kerbs where weeds grow should be more effective. There is a need for more street trees in this estate. Beaufield has a very good entry with very good enclosure created by the mature trees. The cut grass at the base of the trees is well maintained and provides a strong statement. Cluain Aobhinn has good planting arrangements at the entry which provide very effective colour but they are inclined to hide the name of the estate.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Parsons Road is very mixed given the variety of special opportunities, however, it should be noted that the weed killing of plants around the bridge area is quite detractive as the weeds are not removed after they have died. The main new road leading from the by-pass into the town square needs future plantings to soften up the rather hard setting with the very wide road, pedestrian areas and cycle paths. The new work on the main street was in progress and very much defines the main street as a central space to this town. There is need for better management of kerbs.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Maynooth is consolidating many of the public spaces associated with the main street and around the campus areas. Many of the residential areas are maturing very well and at present perhaps the Tidy Towns Committee should seek ideas to find better integration between the residential

areas and the more commercial areas. The document entitled First Steps is an excellent example of the standard that is being put forward to seek a future strategy plan and the committee must be congratulated.