

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **MONASTEREVIN**
County : **KILDARE**
Category : **D**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 10-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	29
The Built Environment	40	22	22
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	20
Litter Control	40	14	15
Tidiness	20	8	8
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	18	18
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	163	166

Monasterevin, County Kildare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you very much for your completed entry form and it is noted that the size of the committee is quite small for the size of town. Therefore the results have been quite effective, unfortunately no three to five year development has been provided with the entry form and this category requires both the entry form and the development plan. As such there has been a drop in marks which reflects the need for this document to be submitted for proper adjudication. No doubt this is a short term drop in marks but the submission of the additional document should actually reflect a larger increase once it is provided. There should be greater mention of the Urban renewals and how the town implements these decisions as the Tidy Town committee can play an important role in ensuring that new works are in accordance with local issues. The plan should not only highlight the long term objectives but also what should be specifically adjudicated during the specific year, as it is unfair to expect a committee to deal with the whole town and all particular spaces for a particular year. Best of luck in preparing this development plan. With respect to the entry form, it was informative but did not provide sufficient information on the local problems.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

There is great diversity of building types in Monasterevin from urban to suburban developments and including the associated architecture of the canal. Perhaps the space that needs greatest encouragement at present is the town square which has very poor definition and given its prominent location some control should be given to the car parking issues and handing back space to the pedestrian. The Bank of Ireland very much adds to the space and demonstrates what could be an exceptional urban space if treated properly. The Hazel Hotel was very well presented and forms a very good entrance into the town, however, it is noted that the main road does not match with the quality and unfortunately, it is beyond the scope of the Tidy Town's committee to deal with National primary roads. The development plan could be used to lobby for better treatment in this portion of the town. It is noted that accessibility to some of the public buildings needs to be improved however, there is quite good provision in certain areas of the town such as St. Evans Park. Scoil Eimhin Naofa looked very well with the baskets and perhaps could benefit with the use of more permanent plantings such as with native plants. It is perhaps important to note that much of the new development in the town needs a higher standard of presentation if it is to integrate with many of the older structures. By this it is meant that perhaps the method and usage of signage, the definition of car parking areas and the need for greater unity of external finishes is needed with the

newer development so that there is continuity through the town.

LANDSCAPING

Riverside Park was very colourful and the various themes in the park add interest. Perhaps examination of some of the victorian parks that employed the same features could illustrate how the items in the park were more fully integrated with the surrounding landscape. There is a greater need for Riverside Park to integrate with the river. It must also be mentioned that the sight lines from the new car park are very dangerous and this should be re-examined. Moore Abbey, though private grounds, contributes significantly to the entrance to the town and as always is very well maintained. The private gardens along the river front provide a very interesting set of spaces and the care with which they are attended greatly adds to the amenity value of the town. Hanging baskets on the pub in the same location also added much needed colour and again a good effort was made here. The river and canal provide very strong themes, however they are poorly connected with distant parts of the town and perhaps a long-term plan should examine how these features can be better connected.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

This category was not referred to in the entry form and as such it was difficult to adjudicate as there were no clear signs of how it was being managed or being provided for. This is an important category within the competition as it can direct the future selection of plant species and the provision of habitats. This category must be covered in the development plan and discussed in relation to educational programmes.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was quite poor on the day of adjudication as is reflected in the drop in marks. There are quite a lot of litter sources in the town but these should be controlled at the starting point as it can be clearly seen when going around the town that litter is generally only located in commercial areas.

TIDINESS

Tidiness represents the status of the general environment and how well it is maintained. Many of the grass areas were well cut and cleared of cut grass and in many cases weed control was quite good as was the upkeep of park furniture. The graveyard presents a very good entry to the town however, the town signs do need to be replaced. In future years, should the national primary eventually take passing traffic away from the centre of the town, there will be great opportunities along the main street to provide significant changes and create a

more pedestrian environment. At present the impact of traffic and uncontrolled parking takes away from many of the efforts established by the committee. The commercial premises running parallel with the river create a very diverse environment that is beginning to tie together with a strong use of colour and strong landscape features. Perhaps the road edges need a higher standard of finish and again the development plan could be used to lobby for such actions. On a last note, there was quite a lot of litter around one of the telephone booths and perhaps the placement of a litter bin in this location would aid in maintaining a tidy area.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Saint Evin's Park looked well on the day of adjudication however, the upturned bench and the weeds and kerbs do need some attention. Given the amount of children in this area the future development plan must address their needs and lobby for greater funds to be spent on the amenity spaces around St. Evins Park as these really do need further assistance to bring greater diversity into the landscape setting. Planters at the main entry road looked very well and will be a very effective dense screen in years to come and this action must be complimented. With respect to the other residential areas all were very well presented and the front gardens were very effective in enhancing the public spaces. There is a very pleasant mix between some of the old established residential areas and the newer larger collection of housing.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

This is a very mixed category as road conditions vary throughout the town and in many cases there are quite poor junctions. As stated, the entry signs to the town need some attention. Perhaps the aspect that has greatest impact on the presentation of the town is the level of maintenance at kerbs which varies. There is great opportunity when the urban renewal projects commence as many of the road junctions should be tackled under these works.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Overall this town is an important contributor to the Tidy Towns. Its size and general scope of everyday problems that effect urban areas are apparent here and the committee must be complimented on the efforts to date. It is important to establish the development plan as this should be used to lobby for greater support from all possible sources. The town is a very interesting environment to visit given the diversity of features that make up the urban framework. Perhaps the most important project to be focused on in the next year is the development of an action plan that can successfully persuade more people to be involved in the competition and to get greater public support.