

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 27-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	35
The Built Environment	40	31	30
Landscaping	40	22	21
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	21
Litter Control	40	18	17
Tidiness	20	9	8
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	16	17
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	184	178

Maynooth, County Kildare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Many thanks for your detailed application form, concise map and information on Pound Park and the Carton walk. The map is excellent and helped considerably with the judging. The judges look forward to the implementation of the plan. The day of judging saw a great number of young people (presumably from the University) in the town. Cycle paths are to be commended and there was not a great deal of traffic which made judging that bit easier. The shop fronts have a good impact in the town and the residential estates are well laid out and are well landscaped. There seems to be good co-operation within the community - well done.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The historic aspect of Maynooth is a wonderful unique feature. The University status of the town puts it in an enviable position of attracting a young and vibrant population as well as the commuters and locals that have their roots in the town. The old churches and other historic buildings have a tremendous effect on the overall appearance of the town. A number of facades looked well in the main street and these included Katies Flowers, Mill Wine Shop, Hula-Bou, the Pottery Barn, the Post Office, Coonans and the Peppermill. The Parish Hall and St. Mary's were fine though there were weedy gutters in the carpark. Kairos Communications had some fine climbing roses on their walls. The Maynooth GAA Club was fine though the wall and gate painting will be required for next year. Laraghbryan Cemetery looked well cared for and again had some nice climbers on the wall which made good impact. Maynooth College is a very fine building. New buildings and entrances also looked well. Grassy areas still need cutting back. The Garda Station looked very well and it was noted that work was being undertaken on the Railway Station.

LANDSCAPING

The landscaping in and around Maynooth was excellent. The green area opposite the entrance to the college was well cared for. Planting at the turnaround on the Straffan road looked well; however, it would be better to have more permanent planting, as it will last throughout the year. In the centre of the town, the amenity area/monument was clean and tidy. There were three cottages in Old Greenfields that had made tremendous effort with their landscaped residences – well done. The Pound Lane Park will enhance this part of the town considerably. At present all that could be seen was long grass and some scattered litter. Litterbins will be required in the area. Please ensure they are covered so that they are not effected by wind or birds.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The canal amenity area is a wonderful amenity for the town. It can be accessed in two main places. The access off Parsons Lane looked well and there were several people walking the canal on the evening of adjudication. The main access to the harbour was fine though there was a scattering of litter. The adjudicator could not understand the barrier for parking or the notices not allowing anyone to park there despite there being a large carpark. Perhaps, this is only temporary. It was noted that the adjacent field was being cleared. Swans, ducks and yellow water lilies looked well in the canal here though there did seem to be an oily scum on part of the water surface. The stream area in Old Greenfield had been cut back and this is another area that could be considered as a wildlife site if planted and managed correctly. The plan for Carton Avenue incorporates a number of areas suitable for wildlife. Do ensure that you have the full co-operation from all involved before this development proceeds.

LITTER CONTROL

The litter control in the town was good. There was quite an amount of litter close to the harbour area. Litterbins were full on the main street and a programme of ensuring that they are emptied more frequently should be adopted. Litter was also spotted on Parsons Lane at the bridge and close to the proposed development at Pound Street. The residential estates were well presented both with regards to litter control and the presentation of litter bins – Well done.

TIDINESS

The judges were most impressed with the care taken in the cutting of the vast amount of open spaces and grass particularly in the residential estates. The Moyglare approach is very tidy and because of this, the odd weed in the gutter stood out. Other approach roads were generally untidy and marks can be gained by addressing this section. The centre of the village was tidy and clean though weedy gutters were a problem in places such as on the Leixlip approach.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The estates were generally well presented. Moyglare Manor was well presented as was Moyglare Meadows. Parsons Lodge and Park looked well and there was nice planting in Cluain Aoibhainn and Woodlands. Castlebridge was fine though some beds were weedy. Greenfield estate was good though there were weedy bases to trees and no Litterbins evident. Old Greenfield presented some lovely cottages and there was great effort evident in some of the houses deep in the estate. Pebble Mill also looked well.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach from Moyglare was very pleasant as far out as Moyglare Stud with its distinctive litterbins. The Galway approach looked well though there was erratic verge cutting and additional cutting was required in places. Signage here was very dirty and required a cleanup. The new signs on the Parsons approach looked well though this approach was weedy in places and grass required cutting back. The Dublin approach was not good. Long grass both outside the Mart and Tesco's gave an untidy impression. Tesco's is being refurbished it was noted and perhaps this will contribute to the better appearance of this approach. The Dunboyne approach also needed attention with better verge cutting and tidying of the margins.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Maynooth did look well on the evening of adjudication. Great effort had been made in the residential areas and landscaping. Prioritise the areas that will gain you additional marks in the future such as approach roads, and the continued awareness of litter prevention. Incorporate these into your development plan and you can look forward to progress over the coming years.