

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **MOATE**
County : **WESTMEATH**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 03-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	--
The Built Environment	40	27	--
Landscaping	40	22	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	--
Litter Control	40	22	--
Tidiness	20	11	--
Residential Areas	30	21	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	--
General Impression	10	6	--
TOTAL MARK	300	172	--

Moate, County Westmeath

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Moate is very welcome to this year's Tidy Towns Competition. It is good to note from your application that you are costing a landscaping plan for the town. We look forward to the fruits of your work in this respect. We empathise with the difficulties you are experiencing regarding vandalism, apathy and of course lack of resources and wish you well in relation to redevelopment of the old railway station. Well done on your liaison with schools and with Foróige. The adjudicator notes with interest that this is the first year of entry since 1997 and is pleased that you have marked the new millennium by re-entering the competition. The heritage park (Dún na Sí) is a valuable asset, both to the community and, of course, visitors.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Moate has an interesting street layout with circulation space around the courthouse (which is a very important building in the townscape) and wide sections of the street with carparking areas. The courthouse (fire station) needs to be refurbished together with its circulation area and monuments. The church looks quite magnificent with its fine stone façade and well maintained and landscaped grounds. The new cultural centre (Tuar Ard) and its grounds are superbly presented also and its "Bargain" sculpture piece is much admired. No doubt the carparking area here will be resurfaced. The Church of Ireland and its graveyard looks quite stately. 'The Gap' pub looks exceptionally well which is important as it occupies a key focal point in the townscape. The school and its grounds were also much admired but the walls here are somewhat weatherstained. Most business properties are presented to a high standard. The P. Egan property was much admired for its presentation and colour scheme. The church at the Rosemount entrance to the village looked superb.

LANDSCAPING

The landscaping at the hard surfaced amenity area which features the tourist trail sign needs a little more attention. There are some nicely landscaped areas marking the entrance from the Dublin road. No doubt your landscape plan will include tree planting along wide stretches of footpath. Traffic islands at both ends of the village should be incorporated into the proposed plan. The stands of mature trees at the top of the Rosemount road were much admired.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

There is no reference in your application to a wildlife project.

The village has many lengthy stretches of hedgerow and there are some handsome stands of trees. A survey could perhaps be taken to identify species and to heighten awareness of the wildlife value of Moate. Your Tidy Towns Handbook offers some excellent advice on how to compete under this heading.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control is quite good throughout the village. A weak spot was the carpark of Dr. Cuppaiges Bar and Restaurant. Another weak spot was the verge on the Mount Temple entrance to the village, the litter here looked quite old.

TIDINESS

The derelict building marking the approach from the Athlone road is a problem under this heading as is the curtilage area of the Auto Steakhouse, although the stone enclosed water fountain here is a nice touch. Derelict petrol pumps closer to the town also look poorly. The derelict cottage and walls across from the national school (1937) also present a problem. The roadside boundary of the garage and motor repair premises look very poor and, of course, the old flags here should be removed altogether and replaced with new ones.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Many residential properties along the main street of the village need to be painted. Residential areas at the Mount Temple end of the village are neatly presented, particularly in respect of their roadside areas to boundary walls. The new Luxury Residential Apartments Development, no doubt will be finished to as high a standard to their roadside edge and entrance as are the apartments themselves. We hope that these add to the social life of the village. There are some poorly presented roadside boundary walls to properties on entering the village from the Tullamore Road. Both the Abbeygrange and Cartrongrango developments are presented to the highest standard and, no doubt, will mature beautifully.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Athlone approach road to the town was neatly presented with its recently trimmed grass verges and its maturing hedgerow and young trees, well done. The traffic islands, however, marking the entrance should be kept weed free. The Mount Temple approach road and entrance to the village looked well also with its display of grasses and wildflowers. The level crossing should be refurbished. Some road signs at the Mount Temple end of the village need refurbishment (near the railway station). The new stretch of footpath marking the entrance from the Mount Temple road looks well. Do try to keep kerbs free of weed growth and have sprayed weeds

removed. Street furniture is presented to a good standard in general, however both the water pump and the litter bin across from 'The Gap' pub need to be refurbished. There are some fine examples of Georgian architecture in Moate, encourage people to retain their traditional features. Both the litter bin and the seat on the hard surfaced amenity area which features the Tourist Trails sign also needs to be refurbished. Some resurfacing to potholes is necessary where the Tullamore Road joins the main road. The seat and water pump at the Clara / Ballycumber junction and from here into the village are presented to a very good standard, while the litter bin at the telephone kiosk near the Clara junction on the main road needs to be refurbished as does a bin on the green at the top of the Rosemount road.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The general impression of Moate is one of a village which is growing fast and which may be a town in the not too distant future. Much of the growth is residential in character, it is hoped that these developments will enhance the community life and improve the quality of life in Moate. Every effort should be made to retain the Georgian character of the village in the face of on-going development, we wish you well for the future.