

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 01-07-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	24	--
The Built Environment	40	26	--
Landscaping	40	18	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	--
Litter Control	40	16	--
Tidiness	20	12	--
Residential Areas	30	18	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	--
General Impression	10	6	--
TOTAL MARK	300	158	--

Monaghan, County Monaghan

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your application. Very little information accompanied your application. It is always helpful for adjudication to include the information under the various headings in the Application form for guidance. As was mentioned in last years report the need for an overall plan is vital. In a plan objectives could be set out, the manner in which these objectives can be achieved and an action plan and time scale applied to them so that a very positive direction can be taken.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Stone plays a very important part in the environment of Monaghan with attractive stone walls on both sides of the entry to the town from the Clones Road at the carpark.

The Lake View terrace of houses is attractive. The railings at the school on Market Street are in serious need of painting. The shopping centre which represents a new façade of Monaghan, looks well and is nicely set in off the road. Both the Diamond and the Monument areas were looking well with many fine buildings such as the Banks, Court House, Buildings Societies and many well painted shops. The churches play a very important place in the profile of buildings of the town. The Garda station and adjoining buildings form part of the new Monaghan. As does the shopping area by the cinema off the Diamond

LANDSCAPING

The St. Louis Heritage centre has attractive grounds which are visible from the road. At the Dunnes Stores junction, three of the four corners are landscaped. Unfortunately the landscaping is not very effectual here with very widely spaced plants there is a failure to make impact. The lake in the convent grounds is a beautiful feature with lovely natural vegetation around the sides. It would be great if this facility was more publicly available as the lake is such an important feature in the town. The St. Peters lake being more open and accessible is a nice feature and provides an interesting walk. The tree planting at the shopping centre is very good and gives a welcome green foil in this part of the town. The birch trees at the Diamond are growing to good dimensions now and are having a pleasant impact. The approach to the lake by the carpark is very grotty and could benefit from a facelift including a landscape scheme for the carpark and approach to the lake. Mature trees can make such an impression in a town. The trees at the Hillgrove Hotel and in the nearby church grounds are magnificent - Copper beeches, limes, cedars and weeping ash. A special mention must be made of the tiny gardens of the terrace on the street approaching the Garda Station. These are a very

welcome sight on this street.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Both the St. Peter's lake and the lake at the convent offer great opportunities for wildlife awareness. A programme to facilitate such awareness and to encourage interest in this aspect would be a desirable objective. Local natural history, school projects and environmental interest groups could all play a part in developing an exciting wild life appreciation policy.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control requires greater effort in the town to present a clean appearance. There are a number of " black spots". The most noticeable being the carpark at the St. Peters lake and the grass areas around the lake itself which were seriously littered at the time of adjudication. Litter was noted on streets, lanes and areas where trapping of litter occurs - the area at the end of Lake View terrace being an example. A concerted effort is needed to overcome this problem both through awareness and through action in cleaning up areas and keeping the pressure on all concerned.

TIDINESS

The Diamond and associated areas and the shopping centre were tidy and one can see that there is a good concentration of attention in these areas. Outside of these areas there is a need for greater attention to tidiness. Some shops and premises in need of painting and those that are dilapidated become more prominent as other upgrade their premises. Street seating - especially at the St. Peters carpark lake entrance needs immediate attention.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Individual houses on the approach roads into Monaghan are very attractively presented both in their buildings and their gardens and boundaries. Such housing plays a very significant part of the total appearance of the town and the owners are to be congratulated for this. Housing estates are well tended and while open greens and entrances to estates may not be the responsibility of the residents the actual upkeep of the homes and gardens within the estate set the tone of the estate and all forms of encouragement to improve standards are desirable. It is important to keep an eye on new estates such as those being developed on the Ballybay road. These need to be finished off properly by the developer before leaving the site. Detail such as tree planting, grassing, paving etc all need monitoring before the developer leaves the site of a new estate. The areas of Glenview and Fairview looked well.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Dublin and Clones approach roads are well presented with well kept edges , grass verges and trees and hedges. All approach roads need to be in first class condition to give

an immediate impression on arrival and on leaving the town. Waste ground, rails and fences as well as tree planting where any opportunity arises are the keys to success with approach roads.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

There is a very positive air of change for the better in Monaghan. Monaghan is a large town with a great deal of old premises which will be renewed over the coming years. This combined with the busy trade and traffic places pressures on the town. The liaison with local bodies will help greatly in the future development of the town and surrounds. Help and cooperation should be requested from all quarters