

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 01-07-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	28
The Built Environment	40	27	27
Landscaping	40	21	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	13
Litter Control	40	22	22
Tidiness	20	11	11
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	22
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	174	172

Moate, Co. Westmeath

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Moate has the potential for success in the Tidy Towns Competition. There are some very well maintained shop fronts and residential areas. We sympathise with the difficulties you face, in particular the lack of support from the community. In a town this size it is difficult to make an impact without the community united behind you, but it is not impossible. We recommend that you link up with the local schools in your attempts to combat litter and that you encourage local business people to maintain the areas in front of their premises. Any attempts at landscaping and floral displays are also encouraged as they greatly enhance the streetscape. It was good to see the pedestrian crossing in operation. You might consider redeveloping the water feature across from Dr Cuppaige's. At present it is overgrown and untidy, but with a little work, it could be transformed.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

For the most part, shop fronts are of a very high standard. Both Grainne Og's and The Gap House on the Athlone side are well presented. A nice landscaped area next to Grainne Og's has become very overgrown and needs some attention. P. Egan's deserves special mention for a particularly charming, old-style facade and wonderful flower boxes. Tuar Ard is very attractive with its lovely landscaped area and colourful floral displays, but the sculpture needs some repair. The Community Centre is being well maintained and the resurfaced car park looks extremely well. The old fire station next to Supermacs is a magnificent building and hopefully it can be renovated in the future, with the interests of the community in mind. Bo Allens pub has a beautifully restored stone facade and lovely hanging baskets. Gillivan's further up, on the opposite side, is very nicely painted and is also adorned with lovely floral displays. All three churches throughout the town are being well cared for and the school on Lake road is well presented but the shrubbery needs some attention. Dun na Si heritage park on the Mount Temple road is most impressive with its thatched buildings, well maintained shrubberies and pretty floral displays. Hopefully the entrance and car park area will be resurfaced in the future.

LANDSCAPING

There is a certain amount of landscaping already in place, which unfortunately is not being maintained to a high standard. The flowerbeds surrounding trees on the main street need to be weeded and litter should be removed. The landscaped corner of Station road also needs attention. There is a landscaped area on the Dublin side, at the Tullamore turn, which although very attractive, needs to be weeded and the grass cut. The flower boxes here are very pretty, however. You might consider putting hanging baskets along the main street to improve the town centre.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

I would encourage you to undertake a wildlife survey of the plants

and animals indigenous to Moate and its surrounding area. Link up with schools and raise awareness of natural habitats and how they can be encouraged to develop further. Consult your Tidy Towns Handbook for helpful hints and advice on how best to proceed.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter is somewhat of a problem. While the area in front of Super Valu was very clean and tidy, litter was evident on the footpath from Supermacs all the way down the street. A litter control campaign should be undertaken to highlight the problem. In particular, schools and businesses should be targeted. A number of bins throughout the town needed to be emptied. Contact the local authorities and try to increase the number of rubbish collections. You might also consider repainting the bins. I applaud Dr Cuppaige's for a marked improvement in litter control.

TIDINESS

Moate suffers its fair share of dereliction but hopefully in the current climate, more properties will be redeveloped over time. The telephone boxes at the Tullamore turn were very clean and tidy. The pump a little further down needs a repaint. The path to the Community Centre should be weeded.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Residential areas are of a high standard. Housing estates on the Dublin approach appear to be well maintained. Some boundary walls on the Tullamore road need repainting. There is a beautiful ivy-covered house with a wonderful garden, opposite the water pump on the Dublin side of town. On Rosemount Road, Station Road, Lake Road and Mount Temple Road all residences are very well presented with beautifully kept hedgerows, lawns and grass verges. Well done to all concerned.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach road from Dublin is very nice with its beautifully maturing trees and well cut verges. There is also a lovely tree-lined approach from the Rosemount Road. A grass verge just past Dun na Si on the Mount Temple road needs to be cut. The Athlone approach is well maintained. The parking areas within the town need to be resurfaced and their lay-out enhanced to improve ease of access. Sign posting throughout the town is excellent.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Moate is a town where there is some room for improvement but at the same time has a lot of potential. Much of the landscaping is in place, it just needs better maintenance. The litter problem will have to be tackled. People need to take as much pride in their town centre, as they do in their residential areas.