

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 24-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	24
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	18	18
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	16
Litter Control	40	17	16
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	19	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	22
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	162	158

Monaghan, County Monaghan

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your supporting material and map, they were very helpful. Under this heading the committee are requested to submit a proposed work programme incorporating the various aspects of the competition headings for the town. A clear and concise 3/5 - year working plan, outlining achievable targets for the committee, both focuses your objectives and sets the scene for the adjudicator. Continue to foster relationships with relevant local bodies.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The committee has identified the many unique features and buildings that contribute to the built environment of the town. Your proposals for the monuments and for the shop front regeneration are practical and considered solutions. Many premises looked well maintained and presented. The Churches, Court House, financial buildings, Social Welfare building and the Market House all looked well. There are a great variety of business premises with some sympathetic restorations and smart shop fronts throughout the town. Some of these have maintained their original sash windows and are using flowers and bright paintwork to enhance the streetscape. W.S. Black, Wilson's, Super Valu, Puc Fada, and some lovely buildings on the North Road are among the buildings that caught the eye for all the right reasons. Both the Ashleigh Guesthouse and the Lakeside Hotel looked well with some lovely flower features.

LANDSCAPING

Some attractive landscaping in the Diamond softens the streetscape. Benches throughout the town need their paintwork refreshed. The perennial beds in the Park need to be filled out with some further planting, similarly, the gaps in the beds in front of the Shopping Centre need to be filled to complete the effect. Some effective tree planting was noted throughout the town and on the approach roads with some lovely mature trees noted also, particularly in the grounds of St. Davnet's. Some lovely roses caught the eye in the General Hospital grounds, demonstrating how a simple touch of colour can enhance its surrounds.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The committee has an important role in preserving and suitably enhancing the natural environment within the town. Many other entrants would be envious of the central St. Peters Lake, which is so accessible. It is good to see that work is continuing to optimise and appropriately enhance this fine feature. Open green areas, hedgerows, trees all offer additional opportunities for consideration under this heading. It is also good to note that you are in consultation with the relevant local experts and try and involve the local schools and children in your plans.

LITTER CONTROL

Your school visit's, promotions, "Spring Clean" ups and lobbying work, are all factors that contribute to this very important area of the competition. There was sporadic litter throughout the town, particularly in some side alleyways, in Dublin Street, at the YWCA Hall, and throughout the Park, where sadly there are plenty of bins. There was also some litter on the road to Beechill College where a small old bin could be replaced. Some of your bins need to be refurbished. The committee and community must remain vigilant in this very important area.

TIDINESS

Dereliction is a challenge faced imaginatively by many towns throughout the country and one that your committee has identified as a major problem. Open areas, back areas and side alleys should be appropriately screened. There are examples in the town of where screening gates or hedges have been used effectively but there are other areas outside the town centre that need attention. Some pallets piled on the street outside Sunrise seeds looked very untidy. The shopping centre car park looked tidy but the car park adjoining the lake also needs some attention. You're clean up days and work with the council are a positive step.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Many individual houses looked well throughout the town and on approach roads with some lovely flower features, hedges gardens and well-maintained premises and boundaries noted. Well done to the individuals concerned for their hard work as these all contribute to the overall impression of the town. However some individual premises need some attention. St Patrick's had some lovely flower tubs and the unnamed estate opposite, Oakridge and Beachgrove also looked well, Glencove Manor is a neat open planned estate with some lovely trees and perennial planting. Glenview Drive play area is lovely and would be further enhanced by some tree planting. Fairview Drive has some tree planting but there is a poor road surface in this and the surrounding area. Liasing with your local residents association is an excellent pro-active project for the committee that is showing results. It is important to work with new developments to ensure that they are finished appropriately. It was difficult to identify all the housing developments, some appropriate signs should be considered.

ROADS STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Some of the approach roads have some tidy verges, nicely faced hedges and good footpaths and roads but the standard is not consistent on all the approach roads. The graveyard road has a poor surface and a lot of weeds on the footpaths. The Milltown and Derry road are tidy but some walls could be cleared and exposed on both. The Urban Renewal and Alleyway Project will open up new possibilities in the town centre.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The Committee have assessed some of the needs of their interesting town and are tackling the problems in an inclusive way, working with and optimising the input of local bodies. The results are beginning to show as the overall impression of the town has changed since my last visit. A good plan, perseverance, and attention to detail will help you progress and optimise the potential of your busy town. Good luck with your future plans.