

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Monivea**

Ref: **717**

County: **Galway**

Mark: **240**

Category: **A**

Date: **28/07/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	44	44
The Built Environment	40	34	33
Landscaping	40	35	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	24
Litter Control	40	24	25
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	33	32
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	240	238

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you very much for your application form and detailed attachment outlining the work you have undertaken over the past year. Thank you also for the copy of the "Enlightenment Village Project" which details the plans for developing a facility within Monivea woods. I understand that this is the community's plan for developing the village, however it does not detail the activities that would be undertaken under the Tidy Towns initiative. A 3-5 year plan for Tidy Towns would be very similar to the entry form you submitted - outlining the planned activities under each heading (i.e. The Built Environment, Landscaping, Wildlife etc). I would encourage you to develop this plan in order to give yourselves realistic goals every year and encourage all members of the community to become involved. Your committee appears to be very active in terms of fundraising and generating sponsorship, and it is good to see you working so closely with agencies such as the County Council and FAS.

The Built Environment:

The built heritage of Monivea is unique thanks to the village greens and heritage sites such as the Mausoleum and the Ice House. The houses and business premises on the green were very well presented, in particular the Garda Station, Fordhams shop and the Community Centre. The school was very well kept and the new stone wall and parking area at the cemetery looked well. It is good to see that you are working to restore the Mausoleum and the Ice House, and the new stone wall being built at the Mausoleum is a good addition. Good luck in your efforts to begin a restoration

project on the Church Steeple. This is in a very prominent position in the village and would be an excellent feature. It was also good to see a new stone wall being built at the empty site in the village centre.

Landscaping:

The village greens were very attractively presented and I noted the larger flower beds at the base of the trees. There was a very attractive floral display across the road from the entrance to the woods. The area outside Fordhams looked well with shrubs, stone borders, and very attractive stone benches. The landscaped area in front of Cookes also caught the eye. There was also attractive shrubbery inside the entrance to the cemetery on the Galway road, and at the entrance to Glenaslat. Some of the picnic benches at the tennis court would benefit from being repainted while you are waiting for the new furniture, and your idea of adding information signs at this location is excellent as it is a focal point of the village.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Monivea is very lucky to have the natural amenity of the woods on its doorstep. The signs detailing the walking routes and the flora and fauna in the woods had not been erected on the day of adjudication, but they will be very beneficial. It would be good to see this type of signage located just inside the entrance gates.

Litter Control:

Overall, there was very little litter evident in Monivea, although there were small amounts on the Tuam road, at the junction to Glenaslat, and outside The Woodside Bar, Kellys and Cookes. I would suggest adding extra litter bins on the Tuam road to cater for the extra residents of the new housing estate. There was no litter at the bottle banks so your careful monitoring is working here. The extra litter bin in Ard Aoibhinn was noted and there was no litter on the day of adjudication here.

Tidiness:

The village looked very neat and tidy, and it was good to see the "Keep Monivea Tidy" signs as you enter the village. As mentioned earlier, the recycling area was also tidy.

Residential Areas:

Individual houses on the approach roads to Monivea were generally well kept. The entrance to Ard Aoibhinn estate looked very attractive with shrubs, pink roses, and yellow flowers, although some parts of the kerb needed to be weeded. As mentioned under landscaping, the entrance to Glenaslat also looked well with nicely planted shrub beds on the right hand side and new stone walls on the left. However, the verges on the Glenaslat road could be tidied, and perhaps even a footpath added as more new houses are built in this area. It was good to see the new housing estate being built on the Tuam road has erected an attractive stone wall as this adds to the appeal of the development.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach from Ballinasloe looks very well thanks to well kept grass verges, a new footpath and attractive stone walls. The stone walls at Nailers corner were well kept and the road surface was good. The approach from Tuam could be improved by adding some trees, shrubs and flowers near the stone name sign. The approach from the Galway side was good and the stone name sign looked well with colourful flowers beneath it. Again, perhaps you could add some trees and shrubs to complement the flowers. Finally, the approach from Athenry looked well - field gates were painted blue and a water pump was nicely presented. Road surfaces in the village were generally good, although the area at the rugby grounds and GAA pitch could be resurfaced, as could the roads leading to the woods.

General Impression:

Monivea is a very attractive village, and the community is obviously working hard to preserve its unique character. You still have a number of projects in the pipeline which will show great dividends when complete.

Second Round Adjudication:

Regrettably the litter situation was not so good during our second visit. A light scattering was noted here and there, more obvious at the playground and very serious in the general environs of the Bring Centre. The characteristic stone walls around the village are always admired. It is suggested that you should encourage the few residents without stone boundary walls to follow suit. Grass verges including the greens were all well cut. Several established shrub beds were somewhat weedy. In this adjudicator's opinion there should be no flower planting around the base of trees on the green as they take one's eye away from the majestic space and therefore form a distraction. In essence the large scale of the space should be respected, meaning that small scale details including small plants are inappropriate. To this avail it is suggested that a substantial tree such as oak be planted on each side of the entrance to McGivern Monivea Limited to heighten the formality of the central space of Monivea.