

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Moneenroe**

Ref: **525**

County: **Kilkenny**

Mark: **226**

Category: **C**

Date: **11/01/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	34
The Built Environment	40	28	26
Landscaping	40	34	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	35	36
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	30
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	226	223

Overall Developmental Approach:

Moneenroe Community Council Limited appear to have a good working relationship with both the GAA and Kilkenny County Council. The adjudicator was interested to note that your five year plan is for the social, cultural, environmental and economic development of the village. It a most interesting village, being as it is an old mining community and the adjudicator was fascinated to see that you have a population of between 1,000 and 2,500 residents! Plans for the senior citizens housing for the area around the old school near the church is a fine initiative. You appear to have a lot of area to cover in order to reach the highest standards. Perhaps it would be advisable to try to encourage people to take care of the area in the immediate vicinity of their own properties.

The Built Environment:

Gazebo National School looked very bright and fresh with colourful window boxes. The church is in a magnificent location with its dramatic situation set on a corner site. There was marvelous planting located between the Church and the National School looked magnificent, as indeed did the mature horse chestnut tree to the front of the former. The Church of Ireland is a simple building with some beautifully maintained grounds. The pub at the main road junction was well maintained. Perhaps a landscaped project could be considered for its car parking / forecourt area.

Landscaping:

The area at Massford Green looked extremely well. Your initiative for planting 40 Norwegian maples since last year is certainly a well worthwhile one. Perhaps you could consider restoring the pump opposite the church as it was missing its domed top. Marigolds to an incidental landscaped space were a pleasant surprise. The graveyard was beautifully maintained. The new trees at Sidegate are a good initiative, and the area around the pump was beautifully landscaped.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your plans for the viewing platform looking down on the village and surroundings of Moneenroe is a marvelous idea. Perhaps you could consider an information board in this location relating to the wildlife that is visible within the locality. The adjudicator was interested to note that there were swifts or swallows nesting in the gables of the school building! Do get local school children involved in drawing up a map and report on the areas of wildlife interest in their locality.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day was extremely good - in fact litter pickers were evident on the roads around the village. However, there were a number of problem areas which were quite minor. These were litter to the grass verge opposite Salome Place and a couple of cans beyond Massford Green.

Tidiness:

The village of Moneenroe generally gave a neat and ordered appearance on adjudication day. However, there were one or two problem areas such as the derelict cottage by the Glen and a grubby boundary wall in this vicinity. The GAA grounds' wall could be painted up before next year's competition, although the trees behind are coming along nicely and were admired. The handrail to the GAA clubhouse should be painted up before next year's competition as they appeared quite flaky. Rusty tin roofs create a bad impression, do ensure that they are painted up in their traditional red or green colour, such as the rusty tin roof at the Glen and the shed on the old road with its traditional external staircase which is a quite magnificent feature.

Residential Areas:

Salome Place with its single storey houses was admired, although the red algae growth gave an unfortunate appearance. Perhaps this could be tackled before next year's competition? There was a lot of construction work taking place and this was mentioned elsewhere in this report and also in the report written by last year's adjudicator. This makes the appearance of the village look quite messy in the meantime, but this was taken into account when considering marks. The magnificent house and garden opposite the church with its clipped yew trees either side of the gate was greatly admired. An attractive bungalow in yellow with hedging to the front was admired. Wadesford House B&B in mustard looked extremely well and offers a marvelous contribution to the general presentation of the village. Father Raftice Place was fine. The pretty cottage with hanging baskets and window boxes opposite Massford Green was admired and the houses in this location generally looked well.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Situated as it is off the main N78 route, Moneenroe has a large area to cover with many grass verges and open spaces. This makes your job quite difficult. At the Glen, the roads were quite overgrown in places, although some verges had been cut back. There are many construction sites which give problems in relation to its unfinished appearance, as previously mentioned. The junction sign by the GAA clubhouse will need some attention before next year's competition. The grass verges on the Old Road looked well and the trees are coming along nicely in this location. The village nameplate at the side gate was unfortunately virtually obscured by overgrowth.

General Impression:

Moneenroe is a busy vibrant centre with lots of activity evidenced on the day especially in the vicinity of the graveyard. It has some magnificent views and settings with the charming church on the hill. Good luck with all your future efforts and keep up the good work!