

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Mooncoin**

Ref: **413**

County: **Kilkenny**

Mark: **240**

Category: **B**

Date: **28/07/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	36
The Built Environment	40	32	31
Landscaping	40	38	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	17
Litter Control	40	33	33
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	26	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	33	33
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	240	236

Overall Developmental Approach:

There was no evidence of your work programme with this year's submission - do ensure that this is lodged with your application next year and for every subsequent year. Concerted efforts are obviously being made by most of the residents of the town, to judge from its appearance on adjudication day. It was reassuring to see the high level of support you have garnered from all members of the community. Many thanks for your colour - coded map, which was most useful on adjudication day. Your encouragement of residents associations to conduct tree planting in their estates is to your credit. Perhaps you should approach the owners of the derelict sites and suggest that perhaps you could yourselves do something to improve their appearance -even a coat of paint - if the owners themselves are not in a position to do so?

The Built Environment:

Both public and commercial premises throughout the town looked well cared for on adjudication day. Of particular note were the church with its magnificent grounds, the schools, and the Garda Station. The residential day care centre had been completed and sported a stone wall and railing to the front. The Credit Union was well presented with some attractive permanent planting to the front. In terms of commercial premises Comerfords Pub looked well as did Crokes and Martin Howley's.

Landscaping:

The farm machinery display to well cut verges on the Limerick side of the town looked good - obviously local residents are making definite contributions to this aspect of the competition. Fantastic work was taking place by the church on the day - the feature in Kilkenny limestone was much admired. In relation to the work you intend to carry out in this location, the adjudicator would suggest that local limestone is also used for the low wall surrounding the planted bed rather than the brick which appears to be suggested by the elevation drawing you enclosed. The magnificent rose display opposite with its centrally positioned village pump was greatly admired. The recessed area with farm machinery displayed in the centre of the town appeared a little bit weedy. A couple of the commercial premises set back from the road could perhaps consider further landscaping to their front areas, such as trees to maintain the street line. The flower beds with stone wall surrounds at the entrances to the town were admired. The playing pitch with surrounding hedge in the centre of the town was well maintained and incidental landscaped spaces, such as that to the recessed area opposite Martin Howley's, were greatly admired throughout the town.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The magnificent facility of Pollrone Quay, with its teams of ducks sunning themselves in the sunshine of a hot summer's day, is a magnificent asset to have so close to the town. The wildlife sanctuary in this location is also a marvelous initiative.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control, given the busy nature of the town, was generally good on adjudication day. However, small amounts of litter were evident in some locations, such as on the road opposite the church and on the road to the quayside. Generally though the standard was good and the provision of litter bins at the housing estates is obviously paying dividends.

Tidiness:

Do discourage fly posting as it gives a rather cluttered appearance to the roadsides. The derelict house in the centre of the village adjacent to the Centra / the Post Office is unfortunate. Hopefully this will be restored to its former glory in the not too distant future. Some empty sites on the road opposite the church, in the vicinity of the Telecom Eireann sub-station created a bad impression and comments have been made in relation to these elsewhere in the report. The gates to the graveyard in this location appeared quite rusty. A skip and pallets at the Consort Case Company looked unfortunate. Perhaps some trees could be considered in this location in order to maintain the street line and screen the activities behind? A rusty roof and gable to a curved shed beside Martin Howley's in the centre of the village looked unfortunate and should be repainted up in its traditional red colour before next year's competition.

Residential Areas:

The magnificent green space with inset permanent planting at the Comeragh Estate looked quite magnificent. There are some marvelous efforts by individuals, both in large estates and to small individual cottages. Of note, was one set diagonally to the street adjacent to the Comeragh Estate, with a seat outside, enabling the owner to sit and watch the world go by! Do consider gables when considering the overall presentation of houses. The thatched cottages mentioned in last year's report continued to look well. Hopefully the Roseleigh Estate will live up to the high standards set by the other residential estates in the town.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Mooncoin is located on the busy Waterford - Limerick Road and this has an obvious significance in this category of the competition. On the Waterford Road, the verges had been cut but the roadsides appeared slightly rougher further out of town. The Limerick Road was a little overgrown, although the verges had been cut back by the warning sign. Do try to strike a balance between a wild

untamed look and an over manicured look in, order to achieve a natural appearance to your approach roads.

General Impression:

Mooncoin is an attractive town whose residents show an obvious care for its future. Despite its busy nature it continues to perform extremely well in the competition. Well done to all concerned

Second Round Adjudication:

The lengthy approach from the Waterford side of the village is demanding on maintenance and was well presented on the second adjudication day. Beech hedges looked well throughout, particularly at the Quay area. The quay should be prominently signposted from the church as it is an important amenity. We liked the mural at Comerford's Pub. Litter control was fair and some litter was evident on the Spar grassed area. The litter bin here needs replacing. We commend you on the high quality of floral display in and around the village, especially those fronting buildings. We hope the new housing scheme will play its part in contributing to your good work and we recommend you canvass new recruits from among the residents. Grassed areas are well presented and maintained . The new traffic ramps in the housing estates seem to have the desired effect and they are not too obtrusive in appearance. Some of the agricultural implements on display need improved presentation. An other good performance by Mooncoin.