Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Monasterevin** Ref: **319**

County: **Kildare** Mark: **172**

Category: **D** Date: **05/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	
The Built Environment	40	22	
Landscaping	40	29	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	
Litter Control	40	15	
Tidiness	20	10	
Residential Areas	30	22	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	17	
General Impression	10	6	
TOTAL MARK	**300**	**172**	

Overall Developmental Approach:

The aerial photograph, and plan submitted with the entry form were very helpful at adjudication time. The map did not indicate street names or places where activities are planned. The planned items under each heading appear to refer to the year 2006. Each section has been carefully assessed in the plan and this will lead to great improvements being undertaken in the town. Two factors influence the future development of the town-the freedom from heavy traffic which pounded through the Main Street for years and the massive new building programme. These offer a new challenge for development in the town and it will be interesting to see the future results. The committee of only 5 members suggests that a major recruitment drive is needed.

The Built Environment:

There are a number of landmark buildings in the town, which characterise Monasterevin. Moore Abbey is a tremendous landmark – the impressive entrance walls and piers are familiar to everyone. The churches are attractive buildings also. The aqua duct, drawbridge and Railway Bridge form an important landmark. The old railway station is a lovely building. The three story terraced residences are a great feature The YMCA buildings is also noteworthy. The old mill or grain store premises to either side of the main street hopefully will get a new lease of life with development. The Bell Harbour development is a new feature with the apartments developments forming a new framework at the harbour. A thatched cottage on the Rathangan road further adds to the lore of building styles. Most of the business premises in the streets require attention to paint and general décor.

There is currently a great deal of reconstruction taking place of premises in the town.

Landscaping:

The riverside park is a very attractive park with lots of interesting features. The park is nicely situated between the two bridges and can be viewed very well from the height of the walkway on the aqueduct. The maintenance of the park is good. Mature trees form a very important part of the landscape of the town and the density of these gives great character to the town. The road on which Count John McCormack lived (plaque on gate) has enormous trees. The signage of streets needs urgent attention and it is good to see that this is listed in the plan. The Hopkins Garden is sadly neglected – however there are a number of attractive gardens along this road with the unusual setting across the road from their respective houses. The landscaping along the length of the St Evin estate looks particularly well and great efforts have been made with this area. The area forms an attractive entrance from the Rathangan side. Some of the new housing estates also contribute well in this regard.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

There are enormous opportunities for wild life observation and appreciation at the canal, river, Moore Abbey and surrounding areas. Numbers of projects could be initiated with the involvement of the schools.

Litter Control:

Litter offers a challenge in Monasterevin. There was a significant amount of litter spotted around the town – in the streets and in back areas. Serious campaigns to improve litter problems are needed. Litter was not a problem in the Riverside Park or along the various walkways by the aqueduct or riverside walks. Litter was strewn at the Hopkins memorial garden.

Tidiness:

Due to the poor condition of many of the buildings at the town centre an untidy appearance pertains. The area by the Bell Harbour is most attractive but the benches along the waterside are in need of attention. An inventory of all sites needing attention could be made and a planned approach made as how they can be dealt with. Weediness in the railway station carpark is unwelcome.

Residential Areas:

There is a vast amount of residential accommodation within the town streets, which gives a great life to the town. These hopefully will be renewed where possible to further enliven the town centre. Bell Harbour apartments are very good in this regard. The St Evin estate represents a very sizable amount of accommodation. As stated above this estate is well presented especially along the road frontage green areas. The new housing estates springing up rapidly are changing the face of the town. Individuals who maintain the property in which they live, the gardens and road frontage contribute greatly to the overall appearance of the estates or roadside as the case may be.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Road surfaces are very broken in places, especially where the kerb meets the roadside. Major roadworks have left the roads very patchy and a complete resurfacing is needed in many places. The approach roads are generally in good condition and have attractive verges, hedgerows or tree plantings

General Impression:

With the huge changes resulting from the opening of the motorway, influx of new buildings and renewal of old buildings there is a great opportunity for Monasterevin to move forward dramatically.