

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Maynooth** Ref: **377**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **261**
Category: **F** Date(s): **18/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	44
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	40
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	261

Overall Development Approach:

Maynooth is welcome to the 2007 National Tidy Towns Competition; thank you for your submission with its many additional enclosures, which were helpful during the adjudication process. In the opinion of this adjudicator, landscaping is your greatest strength in the competition and the many stands of mature and specimen trees were very much admired. Your heritage buildings are of great value also and of course your location on the Royal Canal ensures fine recreational amenity potential for the community. We note your partnership approach with statutory bodies and other agencies together with schools and business interests, well done. We wish you every success in the implementation of your plan.

The Built Environment:

Heritage buildings, schools and churches were beautifully presented during adjudication and have a well-cared for appearance. St. Mary's Boys National School was particularly admired in respect of its landscaping, both the Garda station and the Fire Station are neatly presented, and business premises enjoy a good level of maintenance particularly in the centre; the AIB premises on the main street, which has retained some of its traditional features, looks really well. The Leinster Arms premises is a fine old stone building and could be considered for an award, however its signage and the positioning of posters in its windows and doors detracts from an otherwise fine presentation. The Tattoo premises uses solid shutters which are unattractive and have a detrimental effect on the streetscape; encourage businesses to feature the open lattice type shutter together with internal lighting outside business hours to enhance the streetscape, it's also good for business as it encourages window shopping. Your tree lined main street has a most gracious appearance.

Landscaping:

The landscaped verges on the Kilcock approach road looked wonderful and was rivalled only by the entrance

to the university with its beautiful landscaping also. Stands of mature trees are a characteristic feature of Maynooth it seems and are complemented by mature shrubberies which were in full bloom at the time of adjudication, those that come to mind immediately include at the Aldi and Lidl premises. Of course the roundabout at Tesco was admired also and the roadside perimeter of Tesco cannot be forgotten either. The stretch of hedgerow along the Moyglare Road to St John of God's Services no doubt provide wildlife habitats to many species. The hard landscaped civic space at the junction with the Straffan Road has excellent visual amenity value and has been considered for a landscape award.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Both the Royal Canal and the River Slade offer wonderful recreational amenity opportunities to the community in addition to being important for wildlife habitats. Well done on the creation of a wild flower and nature reserve at Joan Slade River with the installation of bird boxes along college walls. We look forward to the proposed report from the ecologist to identify areas that threaten wildlife. The small and large Pound Parks offer amenity potential also together with the woodlands of St. Patrick's College and the area that makes up the Carton Demesne. We wish you every success in projects planned under this heading.

Litter Control:

Maynooth appeared to be litter free at the time of adjudication, which is no small achievement given your large population and number of visitors, well done. We note from your application your twice weekly litter collections. The students of primary and post-primary schools are to be congratulated for their involvement in the litter-free aspect of Maynooth and congratulations to those schools that have achieved Green Flag status, congratulations also on the appointment of a Tidy Towns liaison officer. We wish you every success in acquiring additional recycling facilities and some new litter bins.

Waste Minimisation:

Projects undertaken for this year have been noted and no doubt all of these will bring about a reduction in the volume of waste produced by the community; of particular note is your proactive approach with business interests in the town, well done. Congratulations to the schoolchildren and residents associations for their segregation of waste as part of your cleanup campaign during National Spring Clean. Recycling centres were neatly presented.

Tidiness:

Well done on your weed management plan, it is good to note that you use environmentally friendly weed killer; sporadic outbursts of weeds were noted along kerbs at intervals. Your awareness of superfluous signage and unused poles is noted. Your work on removing graffiti is a most valuable initiative and we appreciate the difficulties involved. Well done on the reduction in problems caused by through traffic with the reopening of Bond Bridge and the introduction of the new one-way system. A number of buildings appear to be vacant of which you are no doubt aware. Do try to keep oversized advertisement hoardings out of your lovely town.

Residential Areas:

Roadside boundary walls and stretches of hedgerow at the Moyglare Road were admired together with the nicely painted terrace of houses on entering from the Parson Road. A charming row of single-storey dwellings along Carton Avenue looked splendid with their colourful hanging baskets. Well done on your liaison with residents associations on a number of issues and the assistance given; no doubt your Best Estate Competition plays an important role in a good presentation under this heading.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Road and footpath surfaces are to a mixed standard throughout the town. The road and footpath and cycle path surface along the road to the N4 is really good while the road to Duke's Harbour is quite bumpy. The main street of the town features good footpath and road surfaces also and car parking is orderly. Your stone bridges and boundary walls add great character to your historic town. It was good to note the wire scape free aspect of your main street complemented by attractive lamp standards and coordinated with seating and litter bins. We wish you every success with your proposed Sli na Slainte route and your plans to install large bilingual name stones.

General Impression:

The most important first impression of Maynooth is its landscaping most especially its stands of mature trees; your heritage buildings play an important role endowing, great character to the town. There are no serious problems in presentation of which you are not aware of are actively working on and we look forward to your achievements over the coming years.

