

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Monasterevin** Ref: **379**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **190**
Category: **D** Date(s): **16/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	30
The Built Environment	50	22
Landscaping	50	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	30
Litter Control	50	14
Waste Minimisation	20	3
Tidiness	30	10
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	17
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	190

Overall Development Approach:

Monasterevin is a handsome town with an important heritage in its built environment. The town is located on a busy thoroughfare, a national primary route and on the river Barrow and the Grand Canal and has an attractive internal layout and street pattern. We note with interest your Historic Trail and wish you well in the implementation of your planned work programme. Thank you for this year's submission which included your plan and accompanying map, do try to identify projects on your map for next year's submission more clearly. Monasterevin is most welcome to the 2007 Tidy Towns Competition.

The Built Environment:

So many of the handsome stone buildings of Monasterevin are vacant and have been for some years now, no doubt there are plans for their redevelopment and look forward to the visual impact this will have on your streetscape. The terraces of Georgian buildings along the Portarlington road were admired; two buildings of particular merit were Gahans Tavern and the The Manly Hopkins. There are still too many dated plastic signs in Monasterevin which is becoming more rare these days thankfully and the Luigi's sign is out of scale with its building. Both the crazy paving and the beer sign on the Nag's Head Inn are dated and unattractive.

Landscaping:

One of the most attractive features of Monasterevin is its handsome stands of mature trees at several locations around the town and of course the Yew trees in the Church of Ireland grounds on the Portarlington Road were especially admired. Flower displays in containers were colourful despite the dreadful weather and the reduced hours of sunshine available to bring them into full bloom. We look forward to the implementation of your plans under this heading for trees on the Dublin approach road and for the landscaping in residential areas. Well done on the maintenance and protection of existing landscaping. In all of your planting

programmes try to plant native species as this will be supportive of wildlife.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your beautiful Riverside Park has been considered for the Waterside Award; it looked splendid on the day of adjudication and is an important amenity for the local community, well done. Both the River Walk and the Grand Canal Walk provide an excellent amenity also. It is good to note from your plan that planting will be clustered to encourage wildlife habitats and that you are aware of small scale habitats such as stone walls, bridges, gravestones etc. Your bird feeder initiatives are excellent. Perhaps this may lead on at some stage in the future to doing a species count of birds and involving local school children in this.

Litter Control:

There was a light scattering of litter throughout the town and on approach roads on the day of adjudication. Your moves to establish a litter patrol should strengthen litter control in the future. Do keep us informed of your proposed litter survey involving a local school and good luck with the acquisition of new litter bins. One consideration would be the segregation of litter when it is collected which is important for recycling and waste minimisation.

Waste Minimisation:

Signposting for your recycling point was in place and clear to see well done on this. We note your plans for composting grass clippings and to encourage all householders to do likewise. Good luck with your plan to minimise your own waste production by composting organic waste to be collected and stored in private areas. There are plenty of other initiatives which you might undertake including working with business interest to reduce the amount of waste produced by them. Good luck with your proposed plans for the new look recycling points. Photographs were very helpful.

Tidiness:

You are well aware of your problems under this heading, the main one being the many commercial yards with open storage and poor roadside boundaries, no doubt these problems will be addressed by property owners in the not too distant future given the current economic climate. The vacant/derelict petrol station continues to look poor. Do try to keep all stretches of curb and the base of walls weed free.

Residential Areas:

The entrance to the town from the Athy Road is significantly enhanced in visual terms by new residential developments and is a wonderful introduction to the town. The large green open space with mature trees was particularly admired. Hopefully the same standard will be achieved for the new development on the entrance from the Dublin Road. The rose display in the garden opposite the church was a lovely touch on an otherwise wet dreary day. Monesterevin has a range of dwellings dating from Georgian times to 21st century apartments, the majority of which are presented to a nice standard.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The most important project to be undertaken in the near future relates to the presentation of street furniture most of which needed to be cleaned, painted or repaired. Your plan to erect bilingual street signs and name places with heritage style cast iron is laudable. The weigh bridge at the canal is another interesting feature in need of attention and hopefully you will achieve your target of refurbishing this by 2009. The entrance to Ballykelly sports grounds would benefit from resurfacing.

General Impression:

On first acquaintance Monesterevin doesn't appear to have much to offer the travelling public or indeed the local community. It is only when one leaves the side streets and sees your rich architectural and other heritage together with your Riverside Park that this disappointing first impression is corrected. We look forward to charting your progress in the coming years.