

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Monivea** Ref: **203**  
County: **Galway** Mark: **277**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **05/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	42
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	41
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	27
Litter Control	50	36
Waste Minimisation	20	12
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>277</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Thank you for the entry form, pictures and especially for the delightfully drawn Map of the village. Our compliments to the unnamed talented artist. Your success in securing 7 volunteers and the clear support extended by the Community at large is commendable.

The layout of your village with its strong tree lined avenue has been delightfully exploited to present a very pleasing vista. The kerbs were clear of weeds and grass and also noted were the signs proclaiming your previous TidyTowns successes.

The School looked well but the ironwork was rusty in parts and needs to be sanded and repainted. The new development at Michael Regan's is still in course of construction. The historic explanatory sign in front of the former church is useful. In respect of the new Housing estate at the Stable we suggest that the name be also inscribed in stone and placed outside the imposing entrance gates. The undeveloped sites are not being maintained which is a difficulty as is the built house which has not been finished or occupied.

Splendid gates lead to the Rugby Club grounds but it clearly necessary to undertake remedial works inside those gates. There are substantial potholes, loose shale and a lot of weeds which require attention there. The existing club gates should be painted to finish this presentation.

Monivea has progressed well in this competition. You are now urged to undertake the tasks of producing a 3 to 5 year rolling programme or plan. This should identify your proposals for attainable objectives over this timeframe. Identifying the Agent or Agencies involved or expected to take the lead role and, especially, establishing a timeframe within which these should be completed.

There are additional marks available for the presence of such a plan. Equally it has been often been found

when it is being fully discussed with the various stakeholders, to facilitate initially their engagement and ultimately their involvement in the successful completion of the items in question.

### **The Built Environment:**

There is extensive use made of very fine dry fill stone walls throughout the centre. The Garda Station is a splendid old building very well presented with excellent ground planting, hanging baskets, window boxes and suitably painted.

M. Fordham and the Post Office are a delight. Moran's Bar (1824) was very well presented as was the Post Office. The stone, Vaughan Woodside Bar, adorned by window boxes was pleasant while the visually vital McGivern, closing the view at the top of the Avenue, was very well presented. The A is missing from the presentation of An Sciobol Bar – Restaurant and Bar. Patrick C Kelly, Grocery and Bar and the Health Centre, were well painted, the latter with modest flowers to the front.

The former church building now damaged by lightning strike is of necessity railed off for safety. Please wire brush, sand paper and repaint the gates which are well below par.

### **Landscaping:**

This is your strength, your forte and an aspect which you have used to splendid effect to project your village. The mature trees along the Avenue take pride of place in this context. The flower display on both sides of the road at the start of the Oranmore Road is truly delightful. The GAA park provides good parking while the ivy screening of the bare walls is advantageous. Two flags were flying here - denying the countryside obsession with erecting flagpoles but not flying flags – well done.

The planters at the School entrance and the presentation within the School grounds were very attractive. The cemetery was neat, orderly and well presented. We liked the stone seats at the Post Office and the three picnic tables in the former children's play area at the Church. The small bedding plants outside the imposing entrance area to the Stables are out of scale in their surroundings and more suitable scrubs are recommended in this setting. See for example the fine presentation at the Demesne. Congratulations to all involved in this splendid presentation.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

In recent years additional, justifiable emphasis has been placed on activities in this regard and the promotion of wildlife itself coupled with an interest in it has been accorded greater attention. Your maintenance of the woodland walks and nature trails are applauded and especially the school children's project on wildlife. The access and especially appropriate sign-posting of these facilities is encouraged.

### **Litter Control:**

The main Avenue was totally free of disfiguring litter, as was the Athenry Road. Bins were noted at the former Church and at Scioból. Small amounts were observed on Mountbellew Road. Litter bins were noted in appropriate area in the centre.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

Congratulations to the School on maintaining their Green Flag status. We noted the composter in the School and that the School's warning signs were powered by solar panels. The use of railway sleepers to outline the flowerbeds is applauded as is the ESB cable roller as an appropriate table top. The Bring Centre was very well presented and suitably sited. It was being fully respected without any dumping, while its plinth and setting were ideal.

The second element of this category, promoting the concept of waste reduction, re-use where feasible and recycling wherever possible is strongly addressed by your activities. Your attendance at the information night hosted by Galway County Council and the Seminar in April has obviously transmitted this message broadly through the Community. The reusable shopping bags are a fine initiative as is the encouragement of residents to have recycling bins.

### **Tidiness:**

Keep Monivea Tidy signs were noted – well done. The Loughlane's (1796) joinery presented a very fine face to the world. Sadly, their gable end still requires painting while the long back wall of the plant should most effectively be screened with fast growing trees. The car park at the cemetery was neat and orderly. The surface at the former playground in front of the Church is very broken up and needs attention while the informal pathway created by trodden grass can probably best be improved by the installation of a proper, curbed walkway. Indeed, noting the disfiguring tyre marks it may be necessary to provide a path wide enough to accommodate vehicles.

**Residential Areas:**

There are splendid individual houses on Mountbellew Road and also on Oranmore Road the latter featuring dry fill stone walls. The two-tone coloured Meadowbrook houses are very well presented and the communal grassed area especially caught the eye. The new estate at Nailer's Corner and the Demesne still in course of construction will add welcome additional units to the housing stock. The house above the School seems to be taken a great length of time to complete.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The approach roads are a particular strength of Monivea. The Athenry Road Welcome sign caught our eye. The pile of stones behind it needs to be moved or alternatively and preferably completed as a dry fill stone wall. The gap between the pavement and the road surface needs attention. There is an excellent new pavement in front of Michael Regan's development. The roadsign for Glennasat at the Demesne and its pole need to be replaced as both are very rusty. On the Oranmore Road the speed limit signs are splendid. The Welcome sign in stone looked very well but perhaps a small amount of flowers might be added here, ideally in a raised, stone flowerbed. At Nailer's Cross the 80km sign looked well but do wash Loughlane's sign opposite the school. Past the School on this road the 80km sign both need repainting while one of them is askew. On the Mountbellew Road the speed limit signs are excellent while good planting and the grass verges are very well maintained. For best effect add kerbs to give clear definition to the verge. The stone Welcome to Monivea was very pleasant and the village name plate excellent but would be enhanced still further by the inclusion of flowers.

**General Impression:**

What a delightful centre. Congratulations to all involved in the presentation especially of the central Avenue which is a joy. The creation of an overall plan will help you to continue your deserved upward involvement in the National Tidy Towns Movement. There are many excellent floral displays which are a credit to their creators. The Rugby Club entrance area needs to be tackled with vigour and determination. All involved with this year's entry are applauded for the efforts and wished well in 2009.