

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Maynooth** Ref: **377**  
County: **Kildare** Mark: **263**  
Category: **F** Date(s): **07/07/2008**  
**22/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	44
The Built Environment	50	35
Landscaping	50	40
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	26
Litter Control	50	29
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>263</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the completed entry form, very useful Map and comprehensive indeed overwhelming documentation submitted. The tabular five year plan sets out very clearly the progress achieved and the items still to be finalised. Your 16 members have been very energetic and you also have received excellent community support.

Maynooth projects a pleasant neat air. It is a youthful University Town and that vibrancy is reflected in many of its buildings and activities. The shop fronts on Mill Street are mostly attractive and well presented. The Castle and NUIM entrance is, as always, splendidly presented and imposing. We noted and applauded the profusion of little blue 'Don't Litter' signs. The canal, another major asset has potential for additional exposure and utilisation as a linear park.

The mature trees on Main Street are a delight. However, there is a profusion of directional and commercial signage which would benefit from rationalisation. There are 9 directional signs at the junction in front of the Castle! The work in progress on Courthouse Square, which seems to have been in progress for quite sometime, did not detract from the very splendid display of flowers on the restaurant and other premises surrounding the square. We note the vast Tesco Store in course of construction. The exceptionally heavy traffic throughout continues to be intrusive.

### The Built Environment:

The Church closes the view in an ideal manner on the Kilcock Road approach. The University both North Campus and the main grounds were well presented. St. Mary's Boys National School grounds were somewhat overgrown and looked tired on the day of adjudication. The post primary large scale school was

well presented with flying flags. The sizeable Dunne Stores complex was well maintained and makes good use of its proximity to the river. St. Mary's Church of Ireland exudes atmosphere but was diminished slightly by the weeds in the grounds. Newton Inn Bed & Breakfast was well presented as was both the Care Centre and the fire station. The good traditional shopfront of McCormac's Pharmacy and the presentation of Maynooth Book Shop caught the eye. Hegarty's Solicitors were noted both for their pleasant presentation and their significant location, visually, on the approach from Dublin, their somewhat old fashioned hanging sign is a nice touch. The Glen Royal Hotel and Shopping Centre are a well laid out and splendidly presented and maintained location on the approach to Maynooth.

### **Landscaping:**

With NUI grounds as a focal point, the amenity areas of Maynooth are substantial and universally well presented. The north campus approaching from Kilcock is a delightful introduction to Maynooth. There is modest planting at the junction from Kilcock. The grassed area and the treatment of the little river opposite the Castle is a delight. The Lounge and Restaurant in Canal Place is a profusion of flowers, baskets and window boxes. The hard landscape of the Courthouse Square although in part still a work in progress building site has a pleasant grandeur about it. The flower displays at the Bus bay for example and at the Catholic Church are ideal. The work on the roundabout and the flowerbeds utilising recycled railway sleepers all contributed to a fine green feel to the centre overall. We noted and applaud your stone seat on the Dublin road.

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

Although there are many options in the area we particularly draw attention to those provided by the Railway Canal Complex. Ducks and swans were to be seen in profusion in this setting. Wildlife is now recognised as an important integral part of the overall presentation of a centre and considerable emphasis is placed upon the creation of a suitable wildlife promotion programme perhaps stretching over a number of years. Many locations suggest themselves as suitable for wildlife habitats. Perhaps, a local bird watch enthusiast might assist in the drawing up of a suitable list of locations and suggest how best to proceed.

### **Litter Control:**

Litter management generally was of a high order on the day of adjudication. Little bins were noted in several locations, each of an appropriate design and all appeared to be adequately serviced, cleaned and emptied. A disappointing extent of litter was observed between the canal bridge and the entrance to NUI.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

This category has two objectives: The reduction of waste and energy expenditure in all its forms and the prudent disposal of material ideally by reusing where practical and recycling wherever possible. In that context we welcome the new cycle route and also the using of the rail sleepers as a very appropriate surround for the flowerbed at the North Campus Junction. Warm congratulations to the Gaelscoil, Presentation Girls and St. Mary's boys National School on achieving Green Flag Status. This is a great success and applause to all. The extensive recycling facilities available appear to be well used and suitably respected. The clothing recycling facilities are equally worthwhile. The enormous success of the WEE free electrical and electronic recycling day in November apart from its actual results on the day was a significant awareness raising exercise.

### **Tidiness:**

Many factors come to be considered in this all embracing category. The significant Dunnes Stores complex was looking very neat and orderly as was the streets generally. The small overgrown river running between the canal towards Maynooth is very much overgrown and it offers a splendid potential additional vista of running water. Beyond the North Campus the former Parish Hall looks a sorry sight. While the HSE site is largely very well presented, the Keep Clear, Ambulance/Emergency sign clearly should be replaced forthwith as it is very badly stained, damaged and disfigured. A further sign that caught the eye was that at Genil Training Centre which is deserving of better presentation.

### **Residential Areas:**

The Moyclare Estate, Meadow, Valley, Abbey were very well presented with mature planting. While Moyclare Hall is still in course of construction. Meadow Brook Court and Crescent were marred by an amount of weeds outside the kerbs. The Communal grassed area opposite the Moyclare Crescent presents opportunities both visually and for use as an amenity for the improvement of this Estate. The Woodlands Estate was very pleasant with excellent trees at Ashley Grove and Castle Dawson. The atmospheric and pleasant little houses on Charter School Lane and Convent Lane caught the eye. Silken Gardens houses are an excellent infill development. The development at Parklands continues to mature very well.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The Kilcock approach road featured the North Kildare touring routes and the Town nameplate both of which were well set off with flowers and pleasant grassed areas. Collectively they provided excellent first impressions. The signage at the centre of the town was well presented but in the view of this adjudicator there is an overkill of signage at the Main Junction. The Welcome to Maynooth and nameplate on the Stud Farm Road together with speed limit signs were well presented.

All of the above roads were free of material blemish and road surfaces were of an acceptable standard. There remains the significant intrusion occasioned entirely by traffic volumes.

### **General Impression:**

Maynooth is a pleasant University Town vibrant and colourful, progressive and well presented. It has a disproportionate, for its size, range of attractive facilities and locations. Broadly speaking the commercial sector is playing a significant part in the pleasant presentation. As adjudication demonstrated clearly the extent to which the Community at large has embraced and supported the TidyTowns concept is both impressive and expanding. All involved with this year's entry are applauded for their efforts and wished well in 2009.

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

It is with pleasure that this adjudicator visits Maynooth having studied at the University for a number of years. The town has experienced many changes in the last decade in particular and the overall clean presentation of roads, cycle lanes and paths has been noted. Back Lane presents a mixture of good and bad with ongoing construction work being noted and graffiti. The completion of the improvement works at Bond Bridge is lauded. Mature landscaping was admired at Glenroyal Shopping Centre, Lidl, Maxol and Maynooth Business Campus. Planting to the fore of St. Mary's school looked great. However, it is a pity to see the parish hall boarded up. The Clock House, Fire Station, O'Neills, Garda Station Elite Confectionary, The Roost, Newtown Inn and the Mill Wine Cellar all looked particularly well. Similarly, the Old Campus of the University is presented to the highest standard as always. Many residential areas were noted for their fresh appearance including Lyreen Park, Pebble Hill, Charter House, Moyglare Meadows and Parklands. New tree supports were noted at Kingsbry and landscaping at the entrance added a welcome splash of colour. The most spectacular floral display was admired at Cluain Aoibhinn. Doctors Lane was neatly presented with good surfaces and the rears of many of the Main Street properties tidy in appearance. The blue bi-lingual street signage was noted and similarly neatly presented bus stops had blue bins adjacent. Damaged and graffiti marked motorway signage on the Straffan Road was disappointing. A scattering of litter was noted on the Straffan Road and close to Bond Bridge. An outbreak was also noted close to the soccer pitch at Parklands Close.

Your committee is congratulated on reaching the upper level in the competition thereby receiving a second adjudication. Keep up the good work!