

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Monasterevin** Ref: **379**  
County: **Kildare** Mark: **202**  
Category: **D** Date(s): **17/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	32
The Built Environment	50	21
Landscaping	50	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	30
Litter Control	50	20
Waste Minimisation	20	4
Tidiness	30	10
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	18
General Impression	10	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>202</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your completed entry form together with the very useful map. Monasterevin has such an imposing array of houses but sadly many now appear to be empty and neglected. You have made skilful use of the river and the canal to show off its inherent attractiveness and many of the new buildings have availed fully of this delightful environment. There remains the considerable difficulty and problem associated with finding an appropriate present day use for many of the fine buildings of the late 18th and 19th century. The buildings and grounds of Moore Abbey are truly delightful and exceeding well presented. The splendid long wall of the Abbey's grounds is an important piece of architecture in its own right which with the castellated gates make an imposing introduction to the town from the Dublin direction. The delightful small thatched cottage on Rathangan Road caught the eye. The Railway Station, recently modernised was very well laid out. The splendid development at Bell Harbour is attractive while the fine piece of 19th century architecture, the rail viaduct was looking well in its repainted green. The huge abandoned mill on Dublin Street is increasingly intruding as a serious negative element requiring attention. The Bank of Ireland in its central position was well presented.

### The Built Environment:

The new Millstream Shopping Centre and the SuperValu Supermarket were well presented. St. Peter's National School was very colourful with a number of murals on display. The very fine Catholic Church and adjoining parish offices were well presented but the gates to the church from St. Mary's Lane do require repainting. The splendid Presentation Sisters Convent was an imposing building while Willoughby's Hardware nearby was very fine. Hair by Jacinta caught the eye while Mooney's Pub, bedecked with flowers was a delight. The Fire Station was well presented as was T. Stack Pharmacy. The Church of Ireland looked dignified. Sadly the CYMS building is now quite dilapidated. We are pleased to learn of the establishment of a committee to explore how best to utilise this potentially splendid structure. The Monasterevin General Store

caught the eye while the sign at Luigi's is very much out of scale with its surroundings. River House and Graham's Tavern were well presented.

### **Landscaping:**

Pride of place certainly goes to the superbly presented grounds of Moore Abbey: manicured lawns, mature trees and the sight of the five arched bridge through the trees all contribute to a truly beautiful vista. The Riverside Park is another splendid development and uses the fine architecture of the high rail viaduct as a back drop against which a very agreeable amenity area has been developed. The Gerard Manly Hopkins Monument and Garden is a delightful cameo as is the grotto on the Rathangan Road. This later would benefit from additional planting. There is a superb stand of mature trees on Drogheda Street and at the end of St. Mary's Lane. Rossglass GAA Club looked very well presented, was neat, tidy and suitably painted.

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

The river and canal both offer considerable opportunities for wildlife habitat development. The uncut grass in Moore Abbey outside the fencing overlooking the river has considerable potential as a source of food for birds. The Riverside Park could comfortably accommodate an area set aside for the development of a wildlife habitat. These options should be discussed with a local wildlife enthusiast or a member of BirdWatch Ireland who can discuss how best to proceed. In recent years additional weight has been given to activities in this regard and the promotion of wildlife, especially bird life has been accorded greater attention as an important element within the overall Tidy Towns programme.

### **Litter Control:**

The general level of litter control is very much advanced on previous years. Litter bins were noticed along Drogheda Street, in the West End and in the central square. Modest amounts of litter were noted around the lifting bridge area and further along the Portarlington Road however the worst litter was noted around the Bring Centre.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

This category has two distinct elements, first is to encourage the community at large and individual householders to assess the extent of waste they produce and secondly to seek ways to minimise this, to reuse items where feasible and to recycle wherever possible. A great deal of assistance and advice is available to facilitate this thought process from the Kildare County Council, environmental department or from the Race Against Waste organisation. Encouraging schools to enter the Green Flag programme is very much a part of this aspect. The second element is to provide and use methods to recycle items wherever possible. Sadly the Recycle Centre in Monasterevin had been very badly abused by the dumping of items all around it leading to it looking very untidy on the date of adjudication.

### **Tidiness:**

The delightful lifting draw bridge and aquaduct area which has enormous visual potential was very much below its optimum display on this occasion. The iron work of the draw bridge needs to be repainted and a great deal of the signage in this area needs attention. The small green pump opposite the school in Drogheda Street looks neglected and would benefit from being repainted either in its original green or a combination of brighter colours. A number of boats in the Harbour looked considerably unloved and a heightened level of attention and presentation in respect of them would be welcomed. The petrol station, now closed down beside the Gerard Manly Hopkins Statue needs attention, its redundant pumps should be removed and the area generally cleaned up.

### **Residential Areas:**

A great many new housing developments have been completed or are indeed nearing completion around Monasterevin. The Old Grange Wood and Hawthorn Drive are well presented while Ferns Bridge, a new development features a splendid central grassed area suitably cut and had appropriate tree planting. The Old Mill Race Estate looked very well while Distillery Court is an excellently developed housing scheme. There are a number of splendid private houses along Drogheda Road. Woodview Estate on the Dublin Road is maturing very well and is presented with delightfully communal grassed areas and mature trees. Moore Abbey Court featured many very good houses some still in course of construction. Cow Pasture is another very large estate. The delightful development at Bell Harbour uses the waterways to excellent effect.

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

The entry from the Dublin Road is quite spectacular with the castellated entrance gates of Moore Abbey Court closing the view. This area has been very well presented with well maintained grass and mature trees. The entrance from the south is more fragmented but still attractive and appealing. The Rathangan and Portarlington Road approaches together with the Athy Road approach all have their strong points and are well

presented. A number of the road signs both directional and speed limit need attention, most require to be washed. The actual surface standards of these approach roads particularly from Rathangan and also along Main Street and Drogheda Street call for attention. The Barrow Way signage badly needs to be washed and the stop sign at the Bank of Ireland need to be replaced.

**General Impression:**

Monasterevin is a most attractive, well laid out town which retains much of the finer elements of its 18th century origins. It is to be hoped that a significant amount of these fine buildings can be refurbished and restored to gainful occupation and use.

All involved with this entry are thanked sincerely for their hard work and wished well in 2009.