

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Moone** Ref: **381**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **238**
Category: **A** Date(s): **09/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	34
The Built Environment	50	28
Landscaping	50	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	16
Litter Control	50	38
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	238

Overall Development Approach:

Moone is very welcome to the 2008 TidyTowns competition and thank you for the detailed and interesting entry form together with the splendid TidyTowns plan 2007-2012. Your committee of 6 have been very energetic and have secured the involvement of up to 12 other people during the year. We applaud your policy of having an annual party and AGM which does much to consolidate and focus a community response to the various issues.

The verges and hedgerows have been very well cut back, the pavement is freshly brushed and free of weeds. Well done on the splendid garden at the fine stone gates leading to the old Athy Rod and new Road Bridge. The fine sign in black marble relating to the Moone Cross Circa 900AD is a worthwhile addition. It would be interesting to establish the age of the tree stump by reference to the rings as it is clearly of great vintage. The Office of Public Works should be invited to make good the broken fences at the entrance to Moone Cross Church. The white and yellow house near the old Post Office was very fetching.

This adjudication is confined to the single village of Moone to the exclusion of Timolin which has entered separately.

The Built Environment:

The Church and the grounds were very well presented while the traditional farmhouse building with bay windows was very well presented. The fine old Post Office, an imposing building maintained its usual high standard of presentation. Major work in progress is taking place in the school which, when completed, will significantly increase this valuable community resource. The presentation of the fine stone gates pillars just before the bridge are of note as they give an agreeable sense of enclosure to the street line at this point. The Handball Alley was well presented with the creepers softening its outline. Is the Alley still used? The delightful

cottage with its creeper certainly caught the eye.

Landscaping:

A number of excellent private gardens contributed to the overall pleasant feel to Moone. On entering the village the small wall on the west side with planting gives a very agreeable feel. Shackleton Valley Estate was presented to a very high order. The layout and treatment of the raised flower bed at the tall imposing stone gates was very well presented. It is strongly recommended that on the road from the Bridge towards Moone Cross that a single sward of grass be cut which would improve greatly the appearance of this approach road. The trees along this road are maturing nicely and would be very well set off by the recommended sward cut. It is important that the remainder of the verge on either side be left uncut in order to make it a suitable source of food for birds and wildlife. The entrance area to the Cross itself needs some attention and the Office of Public Works should be encouraged, as a matter of urgency, to replace the damaged vertical bars of the railings.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Its rural setting and low traffic volumes creates the ideal mix of circumstances to encourage the development of a wildlife sanctuary within the centre. Schools have found it beneficial to introduce bird tables and bird nesting boxes and to facilitate an interest in birds and wildlife general among their pupils. There maybe a local enthusiast perhaps a member of BirdWatch Ireland in the area who could help you devise a suitable programme with could then be discussed with the school authorities. On the day of adjudication we were delighted to be entertained by a small, friendly rabbit.

Litter Control:

Litter management was very apparent on the day of adjudication. Your involvement in the National Spring Clean in April together with the policy of dividing the village into areas which are then patrolled by volunteers, are clearly having a great and beneficial effect.

Waste Minimisation:

Your efforts to promote the concept of recycling are applauded. The arrangements made with the Private Recycling Centre in respect of private houses is to be applauded. Discuss the options with the school in securing Green Flag Status when the current building programme is completed. Securing this, while requiring dedication, leads to a tremendous increase in the appreciation of the need to minimise waste, recycle and reuse.

Tidiness:

Moone projects a pleasant, tidy face but there are a number of difficulties. The bridge over the Main Road was very much disfigured by weeds and the 80 speed limit sign needs attention. This was the most material falling from grace which we noted. However the 'School Ahead' sign on the approach from Timolin was on the ground and the village name plate requires to be washed. The new paths which were laid down in the last year are a distinct improvement and well done.

Residential Areas:

The Shackleton Valley was presented to a very high order. The introduction of an inter estate competition is always a good technique to develop and enhance their collective presentation. The decision of Kildare County Council Parks Department to take over the Pocket Park is welcomed. The small street in Moone has a number of very well presented houses and gardens.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The entrance from the southern end is extremely pleasant with wide verges, suitable tree planting and well presented signage. Signage here was clear, clean and easy to read. The black and yellow wall at the end of the straight on the way to Moone Cross closes the view and so is very visual as you approach from the bridge. If it was to be washed it would enhance very much the view on this approach. The entrance from Timolin looks very well, the road verges are neatly cut and the village name plate together with the Kildare Tourist sign all were well presented.

General Impression:

The feel and ethos of Moone has been retained by the wide street, the introduction of grassed areas and shrubs and by the manner by which the house and shops have been presented. The inevitable disruption occasioned by the major work on the school is of a temporary nature and when complete the onward march of this delightful centre can continue.

All involved with this year's entry are warmly thanked, applauded and congratulated for their efforts and wished well in 2009.