

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Moneenroe** Ref: **274**
County: **Kilkenny** Mark: **240**
Category: **C** Date(s): **16/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	40
The Built Environment	50	31
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	28
Litter Control	50	31
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	13
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	240

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your helpful answers to the questionnaire on the entry form, for your well-co-ordinated documents and for your clearly drawn map. It is some years since this adjudicator visited Moneenroe and he had forgotten how extensive a territory is covered in your work, making it quite difficult to give a sense of cohesion to the various side roads and groups of dwellings. At the time he made a suggestion that there should be a new category for 'tidy districts' (in which Moneenroe would certainly have done very well) but as there were very few other similar localities the idea was not taken up. What immediately comes to the eye after an interval of about six years is how the new residential estates have helped to give more of a feeling of a village, but the long spaces between some of the settlements still make it virtually impossible for any voluntary organisation to keep these spaces tidy, and it appeared inevitable that it would be difficult to achieve as high a mark as one would wish under 'Tidiness'. It is really up to individual owners of lands bordering the roads to keep these places tidy. Where mention is given (below) of sites or features it is because they are considered to be exceptionally good, or because they are not quite up to standard; where a site or feature is not mentioned it signifies that this location is satisfactory.

The Built Environment:

The handsome Gothic church in its attractively planted grounds was admired as the centrepiece of the village. The unnamed building adjacent badly needs upgrading; presumably a purpose can not be found for it. The school was also well maintained, but in the next year or two it will need freshening up with paint. The GAA building and its surrounds are a credit to the members. The Massford Enterprise Centre was well kept. The pretty Church of Ireland church (not shown on your map) is an important landmark.

Landscaping:

The RC church grounds, with the wonderful copper-beech hedge and palms coming into flower at the time of

the visit and giving out a delicious scent, is also a natural focus for the village centre. The graveyard opposite was seen to be well kept – a pity the fine stone wall does not continue the full way down on the right. The seating area at Railyard Cross is expertly designed and very well presented; fine strong wooden fencing here and at Moneenroe Park as well as at other landscaped locations was very pleasing to see. Some flower beds seemed to be poorly tended, such as a Massford Green, but this could have improved later in the month. Name stones were admired.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The wild hedgerows in the environs of the village are certainly the ideal habit for birds but nearer the centre one would expect to see trimmer hedges. The deliberately wild hedgerow at Massford Green is one of the former. Trees are properly considered under this heading (rather than under Landscaping) which is often forgotten. You mention that forty of the Norway maples have been planted in the last year – this is a remarkable achievement. You also mention the bird boxes: it would be interesting to learn how many of these are taken up by tenants – probably all? Incidentally, it was good to see so many well tended farms in the neighbourhood.

Litter Control:

There was very little disposable litter in Moneenroe on adjudication day, undoubtedly due to your weekly litter collection – but can it be that people are dropping less litter now? – one would like to think so. You do not say if school classes are actively involved in this work.

Waste Minimisation:

You do not give much information as to how you are dealing with this topic, which will become more and more important as time goes on. Good luck to the school in its quest for a green flag; this will be a big step forward.

Tidiness:

While most roadside verges were reasonably tidy, there were still considerable swathes that were not; this is a problem endemic to Moneenroe that has been mentioned above. This makes for much inconsistency. A derelict building was seen on Old Road, an untidy site opposite the Protestant church and a site that could do with tidying up beyond the Enterprise Centre. Unused poles were still around.

Residential Areas:

Individual older homes were well presented, many with very charming front gardens; some unusual trees were noted, such as monkey-puzzle, and some fine examples of topiary. The homes for the elderly were greatly admired and beautifully kept; it is exemplary that these should be situated at the centre of village life where the comings and goings can be seen, and not in some more remote spot. On the road towards the pump the suburban-type bungalows were almost all well kept; it was good to see a new two-storied house having its boundary wall faced in stone. An impressive new estate, with homes built to individual yet complementary designs, was observed to be well thought-out; the two houses that are painted yellow suggest that the other houses should make use of light colours too, in order to remove the inevitable greyness of new buildings; trees and shrubs are needed to take the bareness off the central space, and would also improve many of the front gardens. Father Raftice Place was seen to be well looked after. In Salome Place there are some very well presented homes but the green space was surprisingly unkempt; some boundary walls were stained; and trees would be helpful to the appearance of this estate too.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Road surfaces are generally poor; surely the County Council has a duty to improve this situation in such a densely populated neighbourhood. New footpaths were favourably noted in The Glen and at Massford. Nice approach signs were seen on the main road, in fact good signage was seen everywhere with the exception of the supports for the Moneenroe sign at Railyard Cross which have become rusty. The car park opposite the Retirement Homes is excellent.

General Impression:

This is a unique community with its unique problems and its own unique ways of solving them. Much improvement has been made over the past six years at least, especially in landscaping, wild-life and residential areas. This adjudicator will be keen to hear of further progress, and wishes the members of the Moneenroe Community Council the best of good fortune in its worthy endeavours.