

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Mooncoin** Ref: **400**
County: **Kilkenny** Mark: **263**
Category: **D** Date(s): **07/07/2008**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2008 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Overall Development Approach | 50 | 38 |
| The Built Environment | 50 | 38 |
| Landscaping | 50 | 40 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 50 | 15 |
| Litter Control | 50 | 38 |
| Waste Minimisation | 20 | 7 |
| Tidiness | 30 | 15 |
| Residential Areas | 40 | 27 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 50 | 37 |
| General Impression | 10 | 8 |
| TOTAL MARK | 400 | 263 |

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the entry. I note you have 6 members on your committee and you hold 2 meetings per month. It is good to find that you are getting support from Centra, Spar, Marion's hairdressing, Glanbia and Icon travel. It is very important to keep the public informed of your activities and plans, and this is best done by the circulation of a newsletter a few times a year. The children will become more aware of their local environment by the committee keeping in contact with schools. It is interesting to find that the competition encourages people to work together to keep the environment clean. Planning is very important and it is very helpful just to write down some ideas that one feels could improve the aesthetics and environment of the area, and this does not need to be a substantial document. You could be pleasantly surprised to find that an adjudicator or somebody else could give useful advice on a particular topic.

The Built Environment:

The schools well maintained and nicely landscaped - Colaiste Cois Siuire, the national school that was extended and nicely incorporates the original school, and the one near the church. There is a large building that resembles a community centre and it could do with a bit of landscaping around the building. The Catholic Church is a fine imposing stone building and it was being renovated on my visit. The GAA pitch is a great local amenity with its modern pavilion and neat stand. All the business houses are maintained in good condition. James Comerfords pub was fresh and crisp, the Rose of Mooncoin is a substantial modern premises sporting some good stonework. At the back of this pub there is a substantial car park. The Credit Union and Spar were fresh and tidy. The residential care centre is modern building in sparkling condition.

Landscaping:

Landscaping is done to a high degree right around the town. There are some fine open spaces with neatly trimmed grass, especially near Mooncoin Heights that extends down to Comeragh Heights entrance. Some

wonderful trees and shrubs were admired. The little area across from the Rose of Mooncoin bar contains some great antique horse farm machinery, and it is wonderful to see that this machinery is preserved. I feel the different bits of machinery could be painted to preserve them and also to improve their appearance. Great landscaping is continued near the church and down in front of the school and outside the GAA pitch. The old traditional pump is a great reminder of bygone days and is adorned with wonderful landscaping with suitable garden furniture, and the TidyTowns Committee are to be congratulated for the erection of the pump in 2004. A striking feature of Mooncoin is the large amount of grassed open spaces. The bring area should, in my view, be relocated to a different area away from this wonderfully landscaped area. More antique machinery was admired on the Carrick on Suir road. The graveyard looked fresh and very clean.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Mooncoin is a haven for all types of wildlife with all those old great stone walls, trees and shrubs plus all the new planting.

Litter Control:

Only small bits of litter was seen when I visited near the GAA pitch and in two of the housing estates

Waste Minimisation:

I inspected the bring area that contains six bins for segregated material plus one for clothing.

Tidiness:

Across the road from Centra there is a rusted galvanised roof is in need of attention. The picturesque old thatched house is somewhat neglected and is for sale, and there was a lot of weeds outside it on the roadside. A derelict house is located near Spar.

Residential Areas:

There are some superb private residences all around the area and a feature that struck me is some spectacular hedging. If I was to give prizes for the best hedge I would undoubtedly choose the immaculately trimmed hedge outside the house across from the furniture store on the Waterford road. The housing estates are all in good condition especially Mooncoin Heights has good houses maintained well and just one of them needs attention and is up for sale. Comeragh View and Comeragh Heights sports good well maintained houses, with spacious greens. All the old traditional houses along by the side of the streets are fresh and colourful. Rossleigh is a large new housing estate, with good shrub areas and spacious greens between the well finished houses.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

All the roads around Mooncoin are in good and sound condition. The fencing of hedges and stone walls stand out. The signposts are all clear and clean. The roadside going towards Carrick has a grass verge that was recently burned off with a weedkiller / chemical and looked worse than if the vegetation was left growing. Perhaps you could consult with the county council with a view to having the road widened just slightly in against the footpath and thereby eliminate this grass / weedy area.

General Impression:

It was a pleasure to visit Mooncoin and stop off for a few hours there. I could see the "footsteps" of people doing great amounts of wonderful work. There is potential here to do very well in the future in this TidyTowns Competition. Well done.