

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Moynalty** Ref: **580**
County: **Meath** Mark: **299**
Category: **B** Date(s): **06/07/2008**
24/07/2008

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	47
The Built Environment	50	39
Landscaping	50	41
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	32
Litter Control	50	41
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	38
General Impression	10	9
TOTAL MARK	400	299

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your completed Entry Form, press cuttings, news release, copy letters and especially the Map which was very useful on the day of adjudication. Thank you also for the various historic brochures on the area and on the famous August steam thrashing. We read with interest the letter to your Chairman received recently and also the local Express. Extremely bad weather on the on the day of adjudication could not disguise or diminish the extent of the progress that this small village has made over the last number of years. Clearly, the enthusiasm of your committee and the support of the community at large is boundless and the result is a delightful manifestation of a village endowed by history and topography and blessed by a caring, involved and creative president day community.

The Fountain and Sculpture is a splendid display, set off well by the backdrop of flowers. The very well presented stone walls are to be noted everywhere and a remarkable restoration job has been completed on the wall on the Mullagh Road. This is doubly significant as the wall closes the view as one turns the corner at that point.

The newly installed hanging baskets on the Bridge are most colourful and are delightful especially when viewed against the backdrop of the former church building in the background. The colourful display poster for the Borora Hoard, 8th century is a fitting prelude to the historic note in the Park marking the actual point of discovery. The Borora River Walk – Siuloid Abhann Borora is truly a delight. The private houses beside the entrance pathway contribute greatly to the overall display with excellent window boxes, superb gardens and hanging baskets. The Catholic Church (1820) and its grounds are very well presented. Particularly the "Hallow Tree" Grotto.

However, it is not any one of these individual items but the collective impression of them all when taken together coupled with the rigorous elimination of weeds, litter and other disfigurements which marks out this

entry as one that is so special.

The Built Environment:

The aspect of the former Church of Ireland building when viewed from the lower road is a delight. The Credit Union have done a marvellous job in finding an appropriate present day use for this interesting building. McCabe's Bar and Lounge and McCormack's, freshly painted in yellow with red detailing, hanging baskets and window boxes are delightful. The Health Clinic looked well. While the Moynalty House Gate Lodge with attractive mullioned windows and festooned with roses and window boxes was a joy. The

The Village Grocery Store was very well presented and the village playgroup building was equally pleasant. The Post Office was a positive joy. The Catholic Church resplendent in its grounds achieved its usual high standard.

Dignans was also a fine building, the long established building of Macra na Feirme was outstanding in its presentation while the two private houses adjoining the lane way to the River Walk were splendidly presented, fresh painted and featuring a profusion of flowering baskets and window boxes.

The amount of stone walls leading to and within the village are universally well presented and must represent many hours and days of labour both to build and maintain in their current pristine condition.

Landscaping:

Both the soft and hard landscaping is presented and maintained to a very high order. The flowerbeds on the approach roads, the well but not excessively cut back hedges are all an appropriate foretaste of the displays to be enjoyed in the centre of the village. The profusion of floral arrangements, be they ground planting, window boxes or hanging baskets is of a very high order. The raised flowerbeds many in rubble stone are colourful and look well. We admired the three flags flying at the Thrashing field gate (1976) and the presentation of the entrance itself. The Landscaping and presentation of the Catholic Church grounds was splendid and we applaud the presentation of the Grotto located unusually actually within the growing bush.

St. Mary's cemetery was very neat and well presented. The Thrashing Field, the tennis courts and other amenities coupled with the river have created a delightfully walk. The art of topiary with the circular tree was admired.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The bird sanctuary at the river was a very suitable location and much admired. The Riverside Walk with ducks, the island and the display boards featuring trees, scrubs, fish, birds and animal all contributed to a delightful experience. The rough grass on either side of the River facilitates the establishment of the all important food chain. In that context we might question the suitability of the non native, laurel bush on either side of the approach path from the main road as it is not a source of food for birds or wildlife. The remaining habitats, in the cemetery and within the Kingscourt road woods are both welcome additions to this most valuable adjunct to the TidyTowns programme. The success of the partridge introduction is a major success while your maintenance of the eight miles of wild river bank would daunt any but your stout hearted committee.

Litter Control:

Your daily litter collection, the additional bins together with your general anti-litter promotion is all bearing rich fruit in the absence of litter on the day of adjudication. Sufficient litter bins were suitably sited and of appropriate design outside the Church, Post Office and elsewhere.

Waste Minimisation:

The newly positioned recycling centre and compost bins are accessible and well maintained. The clothing bank at the Filling Station is conveniently located and being well maintained. Even the old cement litter bins, a design which has been now superseded have been imaginatively recycled by you for suitable flower beds. Nothing is left to waste. Well done.

This category is equally about getting the Community at large to consider ways and means of reducing energy use and the generation of waste in all its forms as it is about recycling items which have been used where possible. In effect it seeks to secure a change of mindset in both the community at large and at individual household level. Consider holding a waste minimisation workshop or seminar in association with the Environment Section of Meath County Council. Peruse the material from 'Race Against Waste and develop the Green Flag Programme outwards from the School.

Tidiness:

Positioned as it is in the higher ranks of the competition Moynalty will accept a very detailed scrutiny of all aspects under this category was a necessary part of the adjudication process.

In this context the LEADER acknowledgement sign on the Bridge is showing signs of age and has broken down. The Keep Moynalty Tidy Sign had slipped down on its pole and needs attention. Both springs were broken on the gate leading into the Thrashing Field. The red gate at the small bridge over the river needs to be re-hung to give adequate ground clearance and one of the existing large screws is not fully driven home in the hinges. We were surprised that the Green Flag proudly flying at the School was not suitably secured to its lanyard at both the top and the bottom so it did not hang correctly.

All of the above observations that are accepted are very minor items in an overall absolutely delightful presentation

Residential Areas:

Individual houses on Nobber Road were excellent, many with superb gardens. Traditional stone built houses past the Post Office with outer stone walls to their gardens were picturesque and extremely well presented. Many of the houses along the street were embellished by window boxes and hanging baskets. Bellair and St Mary's Villas were well presented with both showing signs of well cared for homes, gardens and open spaces. The attractive rockery at Hillview caught the eye while the two houses adjoining the path to the Thrashing field are major contributors to the overall scene especially when viewed from the field.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Traditionally the front window of villages, the approach roads to Moynalty are a fitting prelude to the delights of the village itself. On the Kells approach road the grass verge was well cut back. The signage and its presentation, inclusive of the gold medal award sign were well done. The 50km sign on the left on this approach was slightly obscured by an overhanging tree.

Kings Court Road displayed a small amount of spoil at the side of the road at the Church corner. Speed limit signs and other signs were very well presented while the verges and hedges were delightfully and appropriately cut. The fine walls and gates added to the scene. The manner in which the trees joined overhead gave a delightful sense of enclosure. Mullagh Road featured the same high presentation of verges and hedgerows. The wonderful work done on re-building the dry fill wall was a joy to observe. The lay-by some distance from the village was very well presented and even the small junction further out again was subject to the same high level of presentation. The same complimentary comments are made about the Baileborough Junction and the Nobber approach road.

General Impression:

It is a joy to visit Moynalty irrespective of the weather. We were greatly impressed with the changes made since our last visit and with the manner in which the landscape and amenity areas continue to be presented to such a high order. Compliments especially for the fine and extensive work done to create the island as a bird sanctuary for the many ducks in the area. This is a delightful addition to the already extensive facilities and attractions of your village.

All involved in this delightful presentation are applauded for their efforts and wished continued success in 2009

Second Round Adjudication:

The beautiful landscaping was immediately noticed on the approach road into Moynalty from Kells. The centre of the village is truly immaculate with beautifully presented buildings and colourful planting throughout. The heritage trail was noted and shows pride in the town's rich cultural heritage. The stone walls are a wonderful feature and it is great to see new building that is sympathetic to this e.g. across from 'the village playgroup'. The 'island' with the water feature looks great. The old graveyard is a wonderful heritage feature but has gone wild in places. It would be nice to see this area sensitively maintained (if the grass is allowed to grow long for wildlife then a note to inform visitors of this should be shown). The river is a fantastic wildlife and amenity feature.

The town was spotless on the day of 2nd adjudication and the lack of clutter lends a very tidy appearance to the place. Local residences and businesses deserve a special mention for the efforts that have clearly gone into maintaining such a high standard of presentation. If one suggestion could be made it is that the main street could be drab outside of the summer months. Planting of trees and shrubs would address this and provide year round impact.

Overall Moynalty is a charming village about which it is difficult to find anything negative to say.