

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Monageer** Ref: **266**  
County: **Wexford** Mark: **232**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **07/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	31
The Built Environment	50	34
Landscaping	50	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	18
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	4
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>232</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Thank you for the completed application, sketch map of the village which was very useful in identifying places within.

Your accompanying letter re the Grotto has been noted and the said area was visited on this occasion.

This was this adjudicator's first ever visit to the tranquil village of Monageer, it was little difficult to find for a stranger not helped by the defacement of the directional sign out of Enniscorthy.

The Committee of 10 is actively involved with other parties in the parish and has the practical support of FAS.

Last year's report alluded to the excellent 3 year plan that was included with the then application.

Unfortunately a copy was not attached with this year's application, and one was at a loss in trying to identify areas that had been acted upon since last year's adjudication.

### **The Built Environment:**

The village is quite small, compact and easy to get around to relevant areas.

It would be worthwhile approaching Wexford County Council to see if there were any plans in the pipeline to have overhead wires ducted underground.

It would make such a difference to the street scape if this was done.

The public buildings were in excellent condition, particularly the impressive national school and surrounding grounds.

The RC Church is the focal point of the village and was extremely well presented with ample and well surfaced car parking adjacent.

The excellent graveyard was also admired primarily for the manner in which the graves were adorned with floral arrangements, the boundary wall needs to be re plastered or painted.

Credit is due to those parishioners that help with the upkeep of these public places, it shows that the spirit of

voluntarism still prevails in small rural communities such as Monageer.  
The road surfaces were mixed within the village and again it might be opportune to lobby local public representatives to have this rectified.  
The main commercial building the Monageer Tavern, with attached convenience store and car sales yard, was fine but a little bit cluttered.  
A number of fine private homesteads were noted in the course of adjudication and again the owners are to be complimented for making the effort to maintain a good standard of presentation.  
Congratulations to the local GAA Club on the provision of a fine new complex, which proves the important part that the organisation has played in the life of the local communities right across the island.

### **Landscaping:**

Landscaping is one of the strong points of the village and a number of very practical and colourful planting arrangements were noted within and on the extremities of the village.  
The previously mentioned National School had an excellent green area complemented by some very nice window boxes populated by healthy annuals.  
Further up from the school one observed a very inviting shrub bed which had a most comfortable seat for one to rest and take in the peace and quite.  
A few areas, notably around the Community Hall and the Church Car Park, could benefit from additional wooden or wrought iron planters filled "with a bit of colour"  
The aforementioned Grotto was visited and the low maintenance planting arrangements at the immediate grotto area were noted.  
This whole area could be developed into a village park and maybe the committee could consult with the landscaping department of Wexford County Council to get some advice and indeed resource support.

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

This is a category that with a few simple additions to what you have already in place additional marks could be gained.  
It is good to note that the National School is involved in the promotion and conservation of wildlife.  
The School involvement could be made even more meaningful if the committee was instrumental in getting the county wildlife ranger or equivalent to come and visit and advise on projects that could be put in place.  
A full survey of wildlife species of the area could be a starting point and this could be then transferred to an information board for public observation.

### **Litter Control:**

Litter control was good considering that adjudication took place the day after the week end.  
Your efforts to ensure that daily litter picks are adhered to are paying off.  
I would concur with the sentiments expressed in last year's report that the motto "Don't Drop Litter" be promoted within the community as a whole as it will keep the issue to the forefront at all times

### **Waste Minimisation:**

The provision of a compost bin in the school is a measure in keeping with the concept of good waste minimisation.  
For further ideas on projects that would help the community do consult the Race Against Waste book or website of the same name.  
This a category that has caused some confusion since its inception but with the proper actions additional marks can be gained.

### **Tidiness:**

The basic criteria under the tidiness heading were adhered to, weed control at kerbsides was good even allowing for the weather, signs were clean and visible and fly posting was a not an issue in such a small village.  
The area around the Monageer Tavern was a little cluttered but nothing that could not be rectified with a bit of reorganisation by the owners.  
Other private properties were in an acceptable condition.  
One negative was the placing of bags at the recycling area; this is a practice that should be discouraged as it lends itself to creating an untidy area.

**Residential Areas:**

The established residential area of An Moin Rua was in a good condition, residents have endeavoured to present their properties and adjoining areas to a very acceptable standard and for this they are to be commended.

The green area in front is a little bare and could be softened by the positioning some planters in the interim, a long term solution would be the planting of trees.

Gleann Na Gcaor is a relatively new housing development of substance and the whole area seems to be maturing nicely.

Another new development, name eludes me, just below Moin Rua will in time blend in with the existing housing stock.

One cannot leave this section without commenting on the high standard of private residences, some with traditional thatch that one associates with Wexford.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Entrance roads into the village were of mixed standard primarily because of relatively poor road surfaces.

This problem has already been referred to under the built environment section.

The myriad of outlying roads can be a bit confusing for a first timer, not helped by what could be perceived as poor directional signage- that's just a personal opinion of one who found it difficult to find the village initially.

Otherwise verges were trimmed and treated in accordance with recommended guide lines and name place signs were clean and visible.

**General Impression:**

It was very pleasing to visit Monageer, a place steeped in the history of Wexford, for the first time.

One was fortunate that the day was relatively fine and the tranquillity of the village could be appreciated.

Traditional buildings such as Coopers Cottage are part of the fabric of places like Monageer.

The committee have undertaken a lot of good work but the village has more potential than its realised to date, it is important to keep in mind that Tidy Towns committees are only voluntary organisations and can only achieve so much.

Do keep up the good work and you are wished well in the future.