

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Monaseed** Ref: **740**
County: **Wexford** Mark: **226**
Category: **A** Date(s): **14/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	26
The Built Environment	50	28
Landscaping	50	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	32
Waste Minimisation	20	4
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	226

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the completed application form and sketch map with important village locations indexed, you are welcome to the competition for 2008.

The committee of 19 seems rather large for a small village like Monaseed.

Consider a main committee of 6 max with a number of sub committees working on specific work projects reporting back in at intervals.

Seek advice from the village renewal section of Wexford CC on how to prepare a simple effective 3 year plan that will outline goals and timescales.

Good to note that you have a working relationship with Wexford County Council.

Your comment that the TidyTowns gives the community an incentive to keep the local environment is only one of the many benefits that accrue from being involved.

Do encourage the school children to get involved, some villages have Juinior TT groups and it might be something that is worth pursuing with the Principle.

Just as was the case with last years adjudicator finding the "village" was a little difficult, the Church and Berney's Pub were well signposted.

The Built Environment:

Even a little village the size of Monaseed is not free from developers so let's hope that the new housing development at the Meadows will not be too obtrusive.

The lovely rural church with its magnificent boundary wall is the focal point of this idyllic village and credit to those entrusted with its and the graveyards upkeep.

The Community Hall and the excellent School also deserve praise for the manner in which both were presented

Berney's Pub is slightly unusual as it looks more like a private residence with its Tudor look but it is very well maintained.

All private residences were in good condition with surrounding walls and yards maintained to an acceptable standard. Monaseed seems to be devoid of derelict buildings.

It is hoped that when the new housing development is completed that the ancillary services such as paths and boundary walls will be put in place immediately.

Landscaping:

Various types of individual planters with colourful arrangements of annuals and some perennials added to the overall landscaping content that one encountered in the village.

Public planting arrangements, such as the one at the hugely impressive Park and equally attractive Paddy's Bank, were very colourful with the combination of shrubs and colourful perennials giving excellent contrast. It is important to ensure that these type of planting arrangements are tended to regularly as they tend to become ragged and lose their effect if left for long periods especially in the prevailing weather that passes for an Irish summer.

The park with its mini bridge and its area for relaxation is an excellent example of what can be done with proper community backing – this would be the envy of many larger villages and towns so well done to all involved.

It would be remiss of me not mention the excellent work undertaken by the school children under the guidance of their teachers in their efforts to obtain the green flag.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The village has a number of natural wildlife habitats such as the area at Paddy's Bank and the Park as well as myriad of banks and ditches

The objectives in wildlife and natural amenities are to encourage the conservation of areas that fit into this description as well as steps taken to encourage the propagation of same.

The committee should first of all consult the Tidy Towns hand book for ideas and then seek advice from a local wildlife enthusiast, the county wildlife ranger or equivalent on how to go about devising a project that will benefit all the community.

An information board depicting the fauna and flora of the area might be an option.

This is an excellent vehicle for getting the local school children on board to help the school achieve its aim of getting the Green Flag recognition.

Litter Control:

The Committee is to be lauded for its efforts to promote good litter control among all sections of the Community and especially the school kids as they will become the adults of the future.

Vigilance is needed to make sure that standards are kept up and improved upon and to cement the idea of good litter control in peoples mind

The village was virtually litter free on adjudication day so well done to all concerned

The "Litter Lotto" what an ingenious idea and what a way to encourage children to become aware of the importance of litter control.

Waste Minimisation:

As this is a relatively new addition to the competition many committees are still trying to see how their villages or towns can benefit and still gain marks in this category.

Race against Waste is a campaign to raise the issue of better waste management and committees should not confuse this with basic litter control or tidiness these are only components of the overall package

Consulting the Race against Waste publication will give an indication of initiatives that can be undertaken under this category.

The provision of composting facilities at the school and the siting of the recycling centre at a central point near the community hall are first steps in a developing a long term waste minimisation programme.

Tidiness:

Last year report alluded to the fact in small villages any untidy areas stand out like a sore thumb.

Fortunately Monaseed has very few areas of obvious untidiness.

Weed control was good helped no doubt by relatively fine weather and despite the fact that is an agricultural area there was very little residue of agricultural activity at the roadside verges.

All in all the standard in this category was quite good.

Residential Areas:

The Village is made up private residences and farmsteads with a new housing development in the throes of construction.

When completed this housing area will be a major addition to the village it is hoped that the surrounding area will properly landscaped and boundary walls, kerbing etc completed to a high standard.

Private residences were also very well maintained and boundary walls and back areas were tidy with no obvious eyesores to be seen.

The committee should also ensure that political parties should remove referendum posters asap as they can become an eyesore very quickly.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Entrances into the village were inviting and the road surfaces were acceptable.

Signposting is not a strong point and the Village needs a few name signs at strategic locations both on the South side of the Village and junction near hall and housing development.

Directional signs are needed near the Village to avoid confusion.

When one leaves Craanford for Monaseed it says 6km but it can be a bit of a round the houses trip if one takes the wrong turn on the myriad of small roads.

Maybe a small issue but to the total stranger not so.

General Impression:

It was nice to visit Monaseed for the first time and observe what a motivated community can achieve when every body is working in tandem

The Committee is doing excellent work and there has en very many good things achieved in the last few years, do consider having sub committees as this structure will be of more benefit to the Village in the future. Keep up the effort and here's hoping that you will progress further in the Competition in the years to come.