

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Moone** Ref: **381**  
County: **Kildare** Mark: **249**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **18/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	17
Litter Control	50	38
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	19
Residential Areas	40	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>249</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

The adjudicator would like to welcome Moone to the 2009 Tidy Towns Competition. Moone is a delightful village that has benefited so much from the by pass and the resulting reduction in traffic volumes that once was such an intrusive element on your main street. You have an active committee and we acknowledge your efforts at involving the wider community in your works and continued good luck with this. You seem to have a good publicity programme in place for your work and this is so important in keeping the community up to date in your various projects and as a means to garner additional support. Perhaps it is time to review your 2007-2012 plan as it is mid way through its term. You could do a review of the projects planned and those completed. You can then reassess your goals as set out in the plan and see where you may need to concentrate your efforts for the coming years. It seems that you have been successful in completing a number of projects as set out in your plan so congratulations on that.

### **The Built Environment:**

The school extension has been completed and is a great addition to your community. Indeed the school grounds were festooned with flags on adjudication day as the official opening had only just recently taken place. The recently painted switching centre looked well with its colourful hanging baskets. It was unfortunate to see the damage done to the fine stone pillars. We wish you good luck in liaising with the OPW in order to get these repaired and restored, as they are such an impressive gateway to the village. The ball court was looking well and as the recently planted climbers mature it will soften its appearance. The lovely rose strewn cottage by the ball court was admired. The pump and the newly planted beds were looking well with the red theme on the pump being carried through into the planting colour scheme and the doors of the old post office. This gave a nice unified feel to the village core. As ever the post office was well presented as were the premises of Croi Anu.

### **Landscaping:**

The pocket park is a real credit you and the fine play area was being enjoyed by a number of children on the day of adjudication. The use of timber for the signs and play equipment is so appropriate for its setting and there was no vandalism noticed in the park which is great to see. We look forward to seeing a feature gate installed in place of the temporary harris fencing, which we note is one of your planned projects. The planting beds at the stone pillars were perfectly done and it was good to see some holly planted in addition to the seasonal bedding plants. Having some evergreen planting here will increase the habitat value of the area in addition to creating a permanent backdrop for your seasonal displays. We would love to see the results of your autumn planting in the coming spring, so perhaps you could include some photographs of the bulbs in full bloom as part of next years submission?

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

The erection of bird boxes in the play area is commended. Perhaps in the spring you could survey these to see if they have any inhabitants and so you can measure the success of this initiative. This could be done in conjunction with the local school. Perhaps you could arrange for a wild bird identification workshop to be held with the school and the pupils could carry out wild bird surveys within the school or park grounds? Birdwatch Ireland has advice on how to draw maps of bird activity around schools that could be used as a basis for a survey. This survey could form part of a wider survey of what habitats and wildlife you have in your area

### **Litter Control:**

Well done to you all on your efforts at litter control as no litter was seen on adjudication day. However the litter bins in the pocket park were full so you might review your collection schedule to make sure they are being collected often enough. There was no sign of vandalism or graffiti in the village. Unfortunately a green wheelie bin was positioned at the pull in area at the entrance to the High Cross which spoiled the setting somewhat. Make sure bins are removed as soon as they are collected, especially in such a high profile and sensitive setting as this.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

Well done on your inputs to encouraging the local businesses to recycle their waste. To really gain points in this category you will need to look at ways to minimise waste before it is produced. Perhaps you could consider running a waste minimisation workshop in partnership with the local authority as part of a public Tidy Towns meeting. It is a pity that your school has not achieved a green flag. This is a great programme to drive home the issues of sustainability and waste minimisation to the younger members of the community. We would urge you to consider taking part in the programme now that the school building works are complete.

### **Tidiness:**

The broken roof tiles at the Old Dispensary let down the village core area and perhaps the owners could be asked to replace the broken tiles as an interim measure if a full restoration is not imminent. The bridge over the N9 was weed free though dead weeds should be cleared up after they have been sprayed to keep the area tidy. The finger posts beside the post office were obscured by the growth of a buddleia and need to be washed. In the centre of the village the ornamental lights were broken with no lamps. Are these to be restored or removed? At present they serve no function and should be reviewed.

### **Residential Areas:**

As ever the homes in your village were presented to a very high standard so well done to all residents. The Shakleton Village was very well presented but the later phase of housing here does not seem to have been landscaped to the same high quality as the entrance to the estate. This is a shame. The homes on the approach to the village from Timolin were very well maintained and created a lovely approach to the village.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The South Kildare Tourist sign at the entrance to the village needs to be cleaned as does the school sign. Make sure all signs are clean and clear of overhanging vegetation; we note this is one of your planned projects but should be an ongoing process. Hedges and boundaries along roadsides were well looked after. We would encourage you to continue your verge cutting to the Moone High Cross site, to visually link it to the village. The stone bridge before the cross is a real delight but perhaps you could cut back some of the more invasive weeds to allow the stone parapets become visible. The sign for the Rath House B and B is in poor condition. Ensure all authorised signs are maintained by their owners and if not contact the owners and look for the signs to be removed or upgraded.

### **General Impression:**

As in previous years, Moone is a beautifully presented village with a fine pocket park that is maturing nicely.

Well done on all your efforts to date and we wish you every success for the future.