

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Moneenroe** Ref: **274**
County: **Kilkenny** Mark: **243**
Category: **C** Date(s): **02/07/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	40
The Built Environment	50	31
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	28
Litter Control	50	32
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	243

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Moneenroe to the 2009 Tidy Towns Competition. This is indeed a very large area, but the adjudicator was taken by a sense of community, that seems to exist in this area. Your committee of 16 is very large by national standards, but so is your geographical area of Tidy Towns responsibility. You enjoy good support from the County Council and the local area, and you seem to be very good at communicating with the Moneenroe people – all essential elements for Tidy Towns. Your support for the School in terms of recycling and the Green Flag Programme is commended. Thank you for the Park Plan and the excellent map, which was very accurate and really helpful. The background document was helpful. When you are revising your Tidy Towns Plan for 2010 to 2012, you might consider having a section for each adjudication category.

The Built Environment:

You have had a busy year. The bridge repairs were examined together with the new wall at the Enterprise Centre and the attractive timber railing at the Village Park. The viewing area idea sounds really interesting and we look forward to progress on this for next year. At the Community Council building, the red lettering (in plastic?) did not appear to sit well in such a beautiful rural area. A very good hand painted fascia board here would look much better. A few hanging baskets are suggested for the well presented National School building, while nearby, the presentation of the Catholic Church was much admired. The planting along the wall at the entrance also caught the eye. The GFC brick building, though neat and tidy, did seem a little out of place in this area. The use of brick here seems to have been a lost opportunity, as other materials would have blended in far better with the local environment. However, this is a personal view only. In the centre of Moneenroe the Graveyard was very tidy.

Landscaping:

The shrubbery at Massford Green was greatly admired and this is really a superbly presented area, and it is very large. Some repairs to the low stone beds were necessary. The letter box here has been cleverly built into attractive stonework. Some of the private housing road boundary walls in this area needed to be repainted. The planting of the 40 Norwegian Maples is a great investment in the future for the people of Moneenroe. The Village Park was greatly admired also. The Railyard Green was also visited and enjoyed.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The wild area to the back of Massford Green is a superb area for wildlife. Have you considered providing some wildlife information panels for the village areas, including the Green? This would be a good project in which to involve the School and there may be a local expert, who would help also.

Litter Control:

The use of the Parish Bulletin to remind the community of litter issues is excellent. Just a little litter was noted in the Massford Green area and along Old Road. At the entrance to Salome Place and along Sidegate, just a few pieces of litter were evident. Despite these problem areas, litter control in Moneenroe was considered to be quite good for an area of this size.

Waste Minimisation:

Segregation of litter during your clean ups is an important aspect of this category. However, the reduction of the amount of waste produced in Moneenroe is a key issue. Can you look at your community and see what reduction possibilities might be available? What projects are you involved with at the School?

Tidiness:

Generally, the overall impression in Moneenroe was one of tidiness. Occasional open spaces along roadsides needed some attention. At the Community Council offices car park, some white bags with stone or sand looked out of place. Various sign poles would be improved if repainted.

Residential Areas:

In the Moneenroe area there is an attractive mix of houses and thankfully, the area has not been over run by modern estate developments. Fr. Raftice Park is impressive and the open feel to this estate is attractive. At Salome Place, two piles of plastic bags with grass cuttings were under attack by the Crows during the visit. Old School Crescent really impressed. This is an extremely tidy estate with excellent grass and planted areas. Opposite the GAA premises, a row boundary wall needed to be repainted.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Generally, most approach roads were appropriately presented, in that they were not over manicured in a fashion more appropriate to an urban area. A tight balance must be struck between over presentation and untidiness. On the Sidegate, the verge and hedge seemed to have been cut very recently and the cuttings were still on the ground. If this is so, then the cutting of the hedge may not have been in keeping with the requirements of The Wildlife Act? If this seems to be the case it was presumably an oversight.

General Impression:

It was great to visit the Moneenroe area for the first time. Good luck with your important work for 2010.