

Tidy Towns Competition 2013

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Maynooth** Ref: **377**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **289**
Category: **F** Date(s): **18/06/2013**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2012	Mark Awarded 2013
Overall Development Approach	50	44	44
The Built Environment	50	37	38
Landscaping	50	43	44
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	29	31
Litter Control	50	30	31
Sustainable Waste And Resource Management	20	12	13
Tidiness	30	18	18
Residential Areas	40	27	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	33	34
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	400	281	289

Overall Development Approach:

Maynooth is welcomed to the 2013 TidyTowns competition. Thank you for your comprehensive entry and copy of your three year plan, supporting documentation and helpful map. You have a good number on your committee of eighteen people along with volunteers working in their own areas but feeding back into the main committee on their plan of work. Maynooth TidyTowns are a very active group liaising with the community, organisations, schools and Kildare County Council. Your support from local businesses undertaking joint projects and the many other sponsors that gives assistance or financial support is to be commended. This type of community support is an indication of a positive strong committee that generates awareness through on the ground action. Your communication through local media and through local newsletter (which will be even more popular this year as a free newsletter) as well as local newspapers are good ways of spreading the news on your activities. Well done on the web portal for Maynooth.

The Built Environment:

Maynooth is a modern town with a unique historical background. St. Patricks College on one end and Carlton House on the other are a major part of the town's history. The main street with its landmark tree avenue links the two together to form the old town. NUI Maynooth on the Kilcock Road is the new modern addition to St Patricks College. The link to the college is one of Maynooth TidyTown's supporters in helping to maintain this part of the town for the competition. The Glenroyal is another important support to the committee through their sponsorship. It is nice to get a tenant into Geraldine Hall to preserve this historical site. The changes undertaken at the entrance to St. Patricks College has really enhanced this area. The pound was also visited and this amenity was admired. The new modern buildings that blend in with the streetscape are easy on the eye and attractive. Courthouse Square is another superb amenity for this lovely town. Your work on unoccupied houses in conjunction with the owners and County Council has improved their overall appearance but has created extra work on already over worked voluntary organisations. Well done on your work in this area.

Landscaping:

The approach road to the town has superb landscaping. The new planters at the Bus terminus were admired. The planters are top quality concrete and metal, more durable and more in keeping with the surroundings. It is good to see uniformity in planters and do continue this pattern. There were lovely areas of permanent

landscaping that provide all year round colour and more planting of a similar nature is recommended. On the way from the canal to the bus terminus there is an area where more planting of this kind would look good. Around the college there are superb trees and planting. Your Green Campus Report makes interesting reading. The bollards through the town compliment the landscaping and the re-instated hanging baskets together with the superb trees on Main Street enhance the streetscape of Maynooth. It is noted in your three year plan that you propose to develop flower boxes at the base of trees on Main Street, the adjudicator wonders would this distract from the trees and if it would add to the streetscape.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your proposed wildlife survey of Maynooth will provide the framework for a wildlife trail incorporating all areas like Carton Avenue, the harbour and other habitats. Providing information boards at each would provide the town with a linked educational wildlife trail which is commended. There are many natural habitats in the trees, hedges, walls and of course the canal. This adjudicator's walk along the canal encountered many species of wildlife. The wildlife area at Parsons Street is a fine natural area where you just stop, listen and hear. Working so closely with the schools and involving them in your projects around wildlife is commended. The many walks already in place provide amenities for the community to partake in and enjoy. The Maynooth town wildlife trail when complete will attract many wildlife enthusiasts to the area.

Litter Control:

Litter is on-going and without a litter management plan in place it is difficult to eradicate the problem. Maynooth TidyTowns have a management plan in place and have identified locations where litter can be a problem. The support you receive from Kildare County Council will help considerably to control litter in the town. Your Spring Clean events and regular litter picks thereafter create an awareness among the community on the importance of combatting litter. Your presence on litter picks is quite noticeable to the passer by and this in itself should encourage more people to become involved. Having the businesses involved is important, so too are the school children and youth organisations. Having a committee member as liaison person with the school will ensure the schools participation. Some towns have an "adopt a road" policy in place where residents maintain that road from litter, which seems to work well. Some litter was noticed in the town on adjudication day around the Bus Terminus and Doctors Lane. You have a good Management Plan in place which is obviously working well.

Sustainable Waste And Resource Management:

This category is about reducing the amount of waste produced in the community where possible and reusing or recycling so that less waste is sent to landfill sites. Carrying out a survey of households and businesses to identify the type of waste that is being produced and then taking steps to reduce where possible. The TidyTowns handbook gives good guidelines to TidyTowns groups on waste prevention. Looking at the pyramid, waste prevention sits at the top and this is the area that all groups should aim for. It is how the people of Maynooth can reduce the amount of waste entering the town. Your group are doing good work in the area of reusing and recycling which is also part of the waste pyramid. Encouraging composting in both communal and households is another way of using up green matter which is useful for flower beds etc. The whole area of resource management in areas of water, energy and transport should be looked at, carpooling and cycling to work and school and the use of rainwater are some of the areas that can offer savings to the community.

Tidiness:

There were some areas of untidiness but nothing too major. Some weed growth was noticed on the pavement at the Bus Terminus. Graffiti is also a problem. Signage was generally good, some poles were in need of painting or removal. The bollards through the town looked well. Traffic was flowing well through this very busy town. Some areas at Dukes Harbour such as a gate to the playground and railing at harbour are in need of painting which presented an untidy appearance.

Residential Areas:

Working along with the residents association and providing support if required on the maintenance of the estates is encouraging to the residents. The competition for the Best Kept Estate also encourages and rewards residents for the work they do in maintaining their estates and also helps the TidyTowns in preparing for the National Competition. All estates visited were nicely landscaped with nice gardens and maturing trees. The many private residences through the town were also well presented and added to the streetscape with the colourful displays of hanging baskets and window boxes. Well done to all the residents for the work they have done in the presentation of their areas.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads to the town are well presented with nicely maintained grass verges and superb landscaping. The Kilcock Road has a rustic look with lovely mature trees and good landscaping. The work when complete on this road will make it more amenable for pedestrians and cyclists and improve traffic flow in this area. It is good to see the use of bi-lingual signs as nameplates and this is encouraged by the TidyTowns. The commercial business premises present the roads around their premises to a high standard and this is to be commended.

General Impression:

Maynooth is a town with great potential to progress in the competition. It has incorporated the old and new, rural and urban to make the town a modern town that has retained its historical foundation. Thank you for participating in the competition, it was a pleasure to visit this lovely town and you are wished continued success.