

Tidy Towns Competition 2013

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Monasterevin** Ref: **379**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **234**
Category: **C** Date(s): **26/06/2013**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2012	Mark Awarded 2013
Overall Development Approach	50	29	31
The Built Environment	50	25	27
Landscaping	50	34	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	31	33
Litter Control	50	22	23
Sustainable Waste And Resource Management	20	4	7
Tidiness	30	11	11
Residential Areas	40	31	33
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25	26
General Impression	10	6	7
TOTAL MARK	400	218	234

Overall Development Approach:

Monasterevin is welcomed to the 2013 Tidy Towns competition. Your entry and supporting documentation which included a helpful map is also welcomed. Your committee of four which seems small for an area of this size have regular meetings and get support through sponsorship and other resources from agencies and businesses. Your engagement with the schools is important and your communication to the community via newsletter and notices is important. Why not try and use text or Facebook. This will save the committee time and will also reduce the amount of paper used. This is encouraged through the Sustainable Waste and Resource Management category of the competition. The work of Tidy Towns groups has become harder as a result of Celtic tiger era. More houses are unoccupied and in most towns and even villages unfinished estates are also a problem, this in turn creates more work for the group. It is hoped that the projects that you have undertaken and completed will encourage more people to assist you and your committee might even double in size but a small committee that works is better a large one that makes no impression.

The Built Environment:

This town boasts many fine buildings alas some no longer in use but all part of the heritage of the town. The old mill buildings which are part of the streetscape are an indication of past businesses and hopefully will always remain part of the streetscape. Drogheda Street is also part of the old town with St Peter and Pauls Church with its superb stain glass windows. The old Monasterevin Girls Infant school (1905) with brick arches and window boxes was admired. Boland's Pub has an attractive shop front; Mooney's too was greatly admired. Moving on to Moore Abbey estate and the John Count Mc Cormack Building. Moore Abbeys old building has now incorporated new buildings and continues to provide many essential services for the town. The painting of the old CYMS is another much admired project. The 1798 monument in market square was also admired as was Bell yard. The new playground a lovely safe amenity was also visited. The well maintained graveyard on the Athy road which has a nice park area in front was well maintained and shows a community that has pride in its people. The GAA grounds an important amenity looked well. The list could go on and on, one can only give you praise for the good work that you have completed in this category preserving the heritage of the town, well done.

Landscaping:

One cannot but notice the mature trees starting on Drogheda Street and in many areas throughout the town.

The landscaping at the canal and the garden at the rear of the apartments was a pleasure to visit. The railings along the canal had been painted and looked well. The nice park area in front of cemetery on Athy road also has some nice trees and seating. It is good to see local businesses sponsoring the seating. Across the road a nice bed of bedding plants was admired and through the town many planted areas were noted together with window boxes and hanging baskets all adding to the landscaping of the town. At John Count McCormack Building the adjudicator felt that some landscaping would brighten up this corner maybe at the New Lodge Cross sign

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Having approached the town from Athy the adjudicator's first stop was at the entrance to Moore Abbey Woodlands. Joining other people on a fine day was the best way to appreciate this lovely amenity. On the watch for the red squirrel listening to the birds singing, admiring the lovely mature trees that have many types of wildlife in their midst, the walk went on longer than was first envisaged but was enjoyed. The signs and information board was noted. Along the riverbank there are also some lovely walks and natural habitats for wildlife. Your wildlife project on Main St will also add greatly to these.

Litter Control:

Trying to maintain a town of this size and keep it free from litter is not an easy task and has to involve the whole community starting with the Schools. At Moore Abbey Woodlands the signage clearly asks people not to litter but this is not happening. One wonders if more bins were positioned around would it help, maybe worth a try. Litter is still a problem but you need help from the Council and the community to improve litter control.

Sustainable Waste And Resource Management:

This category is about reducing the amount of waste produced in the community. Looking at your entry you have a good understanding on how this can be achieved. Your work with the Green School Scheme will also be helpful. This category should also consider resource efficiency in the community like how you can reduce on water energy and transport. If managed properly it will save the community money. Another area to look at is items that can be reused and in some cases create much needed funding that groups may need for projects. Do continue to look at ways to reduce and any surveys undertaken do keep a copy to send with your entry.

Tidiness:

It is hoped that the participation in a pilot signage scheme with Kildare County Council will improve the signage throughout the town. There is a lot of clutter from signage starting at John Count McCormack corner which makes this area look untidy. The tourist signs look bad for instance one for the Japanese gardens looks bad. Proper signage in promoting tourism is important as is clean signage for directional use. Through the town many signs need either replacing or cleaning. If this area is addressed it will greatly improve the town. Graffiti was also noted on a sign at the new playground. Old Petrol pumps looked untidy and could be made into a nice feature by painting and landscaping around. Weed growth on kerbs is also a problem but not the hardest to address.

Residential Areas:

There were many fine residential areas in the town from single storey to three storeys. Togher woods estate like all the estates visited has lovely trees adorning the area so too the estates at kill cross. Athy road has good landscaping; Hopkins Mews was another well maintained area as was the red brick house across from church with nice roses. St Marys Avenue had a very well presented entrance good landscaped and well cared for green areas. It is good to note that many of the areas care for their own and have a pride in the town they live in.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approaching from the Athy road as the adjudicator did the road into town has nice mature trees and green areas as well as a fine old stone wall around Moore Abbey. Do ensure that encroaching foliage is cut back at directional signs and town signs. Perhaps as part of your pilot Monasterevin may get new town name plates for each approaching road. The road surfaces were very uneven in places. The Bridges over the river and railway was superb. They are a fine feature of the town. Boundary walls throughout were in places in need of freshening and there were gates that could also do with painting.

General Impression:

Monasterevin is a town with great potential. Its situation with the river and canal, its fine bridges and old stone buildings gives this heritage town a great foundation to develop further and certainly in the Tidy Towns Competition. Your committee have done great work for this year's competition and given more assistance from the County Council with signage and litter this town would improve greatly. It is hoped that the community at large will also assist you to achieve your goals. You are wished continued success in the future.