

Tidy Towns 1997

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **MOONCOIN**  
County : **KILKENNY**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 02-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	31
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	31	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	14
Litter Control	40	28	28
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>201</b>

## **Mooncoin, Co. Kilkenny**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

It is encouraging to see that the level of commitment from your Local Authority, FAS, your Community and sponsor has been maintained. Thank you for the detailed map which was most useful on adjudication day. Last year you received an in-depth report from the adjudicator. The following comments should be read in conjunction with that report. Mooncoin has the facility to progress further in this competition. However experience tells us that this can only be achieved where work is carried out on a planned basis over a period of 3-5 years. Preparation of such a plan need not be onerous and can be done in conjunction with your Local Authority, FAS, other statutory bodies and your community. Try to identify what needs to be done and what realistically can be done over the 3-5 year period within your physical and financial resources. In the event a copy of this plan would be very useful when sending in your entry for 1998.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The comments made by last years adjudicator are still applicable. The Church and Schools were excellently presented. The St Dominics Credit Union building however looks drab. A special word of commendation to the Texaco Station which is one of the tidiest and best presented that this adjudicator has seen this year. Congratulations to all concerned.

### **LANDSCAPING**

All your landscaped sites were visited on adjudication day and indeed your Committee is to be congratulated on the excellent work which has taken place to date. For the future perhaps you would consider further judicious planting of trees and shrubs for the purpose of softening the landscape. Careful planning however is necessary as to plant too many will only cause clutter. In the event do consult with your Local Authority, Coillte or some qualified person in your locality. In the case of shrubs consider planting those of the flowering type which will give you some colour on an all-year-round basis.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Your comments regarding Poulrone Quay have been noted. This area was visited on adjudication day and certainly is an ideal locality for a wildlife project. This is a comparatively new category in the competition with the emphasis on the conservation and enhancement of wildlife habitats and the environment. Woodlands, rivers, ponds, hedgerows, grass margins, open spaces, graveyards and walls are important habitats and your Committee should try to identify areas where these habitats exist and then determine the best approach to their conservation and enhancement. The guidelines in the Tidy Towns book offer other suggestions as to the type of initiatives you might undertake. If there is a local wildlife expert or a member of your Committee with

experience in this area please do use their knowledge. Until such time as the project is up and running a nominal mark is being given in this category for this year.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

There was no litter to be seen on the main streets in Mooncoin on adjudication day. Unfortunately there was some littering in Suir Crescent and also in the side roads past Crokers Shop. Litter must be monitored on a continuous basis. Perhaps the provision of additional bins would not go astray.

## **TIDINESS**

The village in general was presented in a very neat and tidy manner. However the area of the side road (from Crokers Shop) was very untidy with some dereliction. The Maxol Service Station on that road was somewhat unsightly and appears to have been abandoned. Please do remember that adjudicators also look around the back roads and streets. The adjudication is not just confined to the main thoroughfares.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

In general housing estates were excellent with both houses and gardens being very well presented. There was however, some littering, as mentioned above. Generally speaking the comments made by last years adjudicator still apply. Open areas are being very well maintained in these estates. If you have not done so perhaps you should consider setting up residents associations in these estates and invite a representative from each on to your Committee. Private houses were very well presented. Many of those on the road to Poulrone Quay also looked extremely well with very nice gardens. The garden of one house however, on the Main Street, was very overgrown and needs a lot of attention. This is possibly a newly built house but the garden seriously detracts from the overall appearance of the Main Street.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

Approach roads were very well presented on adjudication day. Road surfaces and walking areas are quite good. Some broken walls are still in need of repair and detract from the overall appearance of the village. There was evidence of weed killing on some sides of the road.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Mooncoin continues to improve every year and, with careful planning, can do very well in the competition. Attention to detail is what is now required and this can be achieved through the suggested 3-5 year plan.