

Tidy Towns Competition 2018

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Moone** Ref: **381**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **288**
Category: **A** Date(s): **09/07/2018**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2017	Mark Awarded 2018
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	45	46
Streetscape & Public Places	50	38	38
Green Spaces and Landscaping	50	37	37
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	25	25
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	13	14
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	63	63
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	32	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	32	32
TOTAL MARK	450	285	288

Community – Your Planning and Involvement / An Pobal - Pleanáil agus Rannpháirtíocht:

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Moone Maoín chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2018 agus chuig Ceiliúradh 60 Bliain an Chomórtais. Moone is most welcome to the SuperValu Tidy Towns competition 2018. Thank you for your application with attached map and numbered key. The map provided was very clear and easy to read and was very helpful in the adjudication of your village. You have a loyal Committee of 5 Leaders and 4/6 volunteers who assist you in your work. You organise monthly committee meetings and your working group meets weekly over the period from April to September. Close relationships have been established between your Committee and the Dept. of Heritage and Environment, Moone Tractor Run Committee, Kildare County Council and you are also in receipt of local donations which supports your various initiatives and work activities. You utilise phone texting, local newspapers and the post office noticeboard to communicate your message to the general public and contact with the local school is achieved through liaison with the Green Schools Committee and the School Principal. Moone has entered the Competition for over 19 years and the involvement with the competition has encouraged a sense of local pride amongst residents and residents have a greater awareness of the importance of nurturing their own unique environment.

Streetscape & Public Places / Sráid-Dreach & Áiteanna Poiblí:

Moone is a very attractive village with many fine buildings and features and has a streetscape of significant character. The Church is a landmark in the village which despite being set back from the road, has a very positive impact on the quality of the streetscape. The Church grounds were well maintained, although the bright coloured facade of the building is a little faded and could be improved with painting. As a small village, Moone is unusual in having public toilets and these are located near the Church. The area around the toilets is a little bleak and could be improved with implementing a landscaping or tree planting scheme. The village pump was admired particularly the red painted railing surround, stone wall to the rear and granite posts. The nearby tall Granite Gate piers are very distinctive in the village and it was wondered whether they were always positioned here or were they taken from somewhere else? Perhaps some historical information on the piers could be erected close to the site. The three-storey stone fronted building in the vicinity of the Gate piers, comprising the old post office/dispensary is another landmark property which is deserving of due care and attention. The new post office and the adjoining buildings are well presented. The school also looked very well and it was good to see all the Green Flags prominent here. The old Ball Alley has succumbed to a lavish growth of ivy and it was wondered whether there are future plans for this structure?

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The Village Playground Park in Moone is a wonderful amenity located in the Centre of the village and has a very

impressive children's playground, with attractive seating and trees, and is very popular with local residents. The new granite flower tubs and benches were admired and these were maintained and presented to a high standard. As mentioned previously under the streetscape category, some additional landscaping would be appropriate in the vicinity of the public toilets. It is noted that the Tidy Towns Committee carry out maintenance works on the Moone Playground Park and also at the dogwood plantings along the N9 road.

Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality / An Dúlra agus an Bhithéagsúlacht i do cheantar:

Your application form confirms that the main access to the Wildlife area at the school is now complete. The information on the 'Turkey Roost' tree was intriguing and one wondered where exactly this tree was located in the village. Perhaps signage could be erected in the village in the future highlighting important heritage trees and other features located there. Have you considered erecting a heritage sign in the village highlighting local flora and fauna and possibly a map showing the location of nearby historic sites, including of course, Moone Abbey and Moone High Cross, as they relate to the village itself. A Moone High Cross Visitor Centre could be located in the village which could potentially attract heritage tourism business here in the future

Sustainability – Doing more with less / Inmharthanacht - Mórán ar an mbeagán:

It is good to note that you organised a Recycling and Sustainability Information evening in March 2018. Raising awareness of sustainability issues is very important in bringing your community on board and encouraging changes in behaviour. Have you considered developing a community herb and vegetable garden? This can be very beneficial for young people to learn about the techniques of growing food successfully. Other items to consider under this category include the possible establishment of local car-pooling scheme, promoting the use of low carbon vehicles or providing cycling routes /cycle parking facilities in the village. Is it possible to develop an off-road cycle/walking route from the village/N9 to the site of Moone Abbey and the High Cross? The greater use of water butts and rainfall storage tanks for the watering of private gardens and flower tubs in the village during the dry Summer period, could also be encouraged. The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland website has good information in relation to the development of Better Energy Communities.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The general impression of Moone is one of a neat and tidy village with attractive well maintained roadside margins, wall boundaries and private gardens. The litter bin at the playground park was full and perhaps this is because there is no litter bin located outside the post office shop. You undertake weekly litter picks throughout the village and engage with the Scout Group to pick up dumped material in the wider area and it is presumed all waste collected is segregated. It is good to note you have repainted the Community Hall and the front wall of the school, which all looked well. Your road sign cleaning programme may need to be intensified as it was noted that some road signs on the approaches to Moone required cleaning.

Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:

Shackleton Village estate was admired with it's impressive entrance created by stone piers and a double Avenue of limes trees along the frontage, and the tree planting programme is complete. The front garden boundaries made from white traditional style steel railings was an excellent choice of boundary here. The linear green area is extensive with good opportunities to develop a wildflower planting on the bank overlooking the open space.

Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:

Roadside margins, hedges, trees, private boundaries and particularly the lovely natural stone walls which signify the various approaches to Moone village, are presented to a very good standard. This is particularly true on the Athy road where you are establishing a link between the village and the site of the famous Moone High Cross. Your adjudicator took the time to visit the spectacular High Cross. This historic feature was very well interpreted and was surrounded by high quality historical information panels. The panels together with the High cross are ingeniously protected from the Irish weather using a perspex roof structure. The site of the cross was discovered from the village with some difficulty and perhaps better road signage is needed to avoid confusion at road junctions etc. Two German tourists who were also at the Cross, had experienced similar difficulties.

Concluding Remarks:

Moone has much potential to progress well in the competition and you are lucky to have so many heritage features which make your village a wonderful and unique place to visit. You are wished well with your future endeavours.