

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Monaghan** Ref: **611**
County: **Monaghan** Mark: **227**
Category: **E** Date(s): **01/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	40
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	23
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	13
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	227

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your most comprehensive entry form and supporting material. Please ensure to add an index at the front of your Three Year Plan for ease of use. The inclusion of photographs and supporting information is very helpful as the adjudicator walk around Monaghan Town. Your committee of twelve are certainly very busy and thankful, no doubt, of the incidental support offered by local residents committees, volunteer litter pickers and the school squad. You should indicate in next years application and estimate of the number of volunteers you engage with on an annual basis. Clearly there is an extremely strong working relationship with the TidyTowns Committee and Monaghan County Council and Town Council and indeed it is evident immediately as the town is so fresh in its overall appearance. With any large town it is difficult to manage all aspects of growth, development and still maintain pride of place but you seem to have the correct formula in Monaghan! Support from local businesses such as Bank of Ireland, TF Fleming Ltd., Monaghan Shopping Centre, Heatons Ltd and other has been noted. You are wise to try to gain a youth aspect to your committee as often this can inadvertently draw in parents too!

The Built Environment:

The almost completed development at La Piazza looks wonderful it is a pity however that the adjoining premises does not reach the same standard of presentation. The use of the Irish Language was noted at Teach Aindi and this premises was very sharp in appearance. The Courthouse and its environs looks fantastic and the Heritage Trail signage was admired. St. Macartans Hall and Church looked well however the two adjoining properties detract from the overall impact. The Y-Zone building was immaculate as was Obar and hanging baskets at An Poc added a welcome splash of colour. Dunnes Stores is clean and fresh in appearance and similarly Monaghan Shopping Centre and Supervalu looked well. Maturing trees were noted at the Garda Station which was neat in appearance. The Cathedral commands a marvellous vantage point and the grounds were a slight to behold. In the same area the Scouts Hall looked well however the railing

would benefit from a coat of paint before next years competition. Other premises that looked particularly well include Sherry's, Monaghan Town Council, Utopia, Aughey's Pub, Gillanders, Hibernian, Louie's Restaurant and Marian's to name but a few. The Hillgrove and Four Seasons Hotels were equally fresh in appearance. The Playground on the Bally Bay Road and Park looked wonderful and was extremely well maintained with families. As with all major towns dereliction and vacant premises detract from the streetscape. Hopefully Monaghan Town Council is assisting in this area and it will be remedied through time.

Landscaping:

The landscaping in and around the lake is wonderful and was busy with members of the public enjoying the sunshine on the evening of adjudication. It was a pity however that the flowerbed in the adjoining carpark had not been planted. The maturing area opposite the Town Library displaying a good mix of trees and shrubs will provide interest throughout the seasons. The roundabout on the Clones Road had been prepared for bedding plants and your photograph on the front of the folder you submitted demonstrated the high standard it will reach as the summer progresses. Mature planting at the long stay carpark was also commended but on further inspection was a little weedy. Planting at the Old Station was noted and will provide more impact as the years progress. Colourful window boxes of violet trailing petunias were admired at Monaghan County Museum. Landscaping at Glencove Manor displayed a good mix of well cut lawns, shrubs and trees. Similarly a neatly landscaped area at the entrance to Pound Hill was admired. The planting around the carparks in and around the Shopping Centre looked well as did the planting at the nearby traffic lights. Neatly maintained lawns and maturing trees were also admired on the Armagh Road. A substantial planted bank was most impressive on the Ballybay Road. The most fantastic rose beds were spotted in front of the Tourist Information Office and Leisure Complex.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Monaghan Town is in the enviable position of having Peters Lake Park which is essentially an oasis within the town centre. Many ducks were being fed at the time of adjudication. The Fishing in Irelands North East sign was also noted.

Litter Control:

There was a scattering of litter on the Old Armagh Road on the day of adjudication. Similarly there were four or five pieces strewn around one of the picnic tables at the Lakeside Park despite the presence of a bin. The lake itself was particularly bad with litter clogging around the bank and close by a trolley had been dumped near the bridge. Litter was also noted in outbreaks at the green area in Glenview close and outside Jimmy's Pub. The planter at Hibernian has become somewhat of a litter trap and similarly the shrubby area at the traffic lights was experiencing the same problem. You are commended for your Gum-buster initiative and overall Litter Management Plan.

Waste Minimisation:

Three Bring Bank areas were noted at Spar, across the road from Tesco and near Supervalu - your plan indicated that there is a fourth in the town also.

Tidiness:

The streetscape of the town centre of Managhan is neatly presented with the area around the Courthouse setting the standard. Please encourage commercial property owners to maintain the side alleyways to the same standard as the shop fronts. The public seat opposite McGuires, under the tree, requires repainting. The lakeside amenity and carpark were immaculately presented on the day of adjudication. Some attention is required to remove the graffiti at the picnic tables which really require a fresh coat of paint/varnish. The broken bench at the entrance to St. Patrick's Terrace should be repaired or removed before next years competition. Plantation Road is disappointing, with the exception a few properties. Problems here include mixed signage, rusted railings, flaking walls and weed growth. Bollards and signage on the Ballybay Road also require some attention.

Residential Areas:

Ongoing restoration work was noted at Aviemore House and we look forward to the completion of this project. The terraced row at Lake View is most charming. The front row of Glen Cove Manor looked particularly well. A red-bricked house on the Armagh Road beside Londis was greatly admired for its colourful floral display. The elevated St. Patrick's Terrace is a credit to its residents. Tully was looking well however residents should be encouraged to paint boundary walls. Killygoan, Ard Glas and Glen View Height were commended for their fresh appearance. Pretty hanging baskets were admired in Manor Wood. Similarly, Old Park Court and the new development at Woodlands looked well. Finally Drumbear was immaculate but please ensure that signs are removed as soon as is possible.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approach roads are consistent in their presentation and are maintained to a high standard. A neatly trimmed hedge was admired at the approach to St. Davnets Complex, however in the same area the grassy bank to the Ambulance Station was heavily overgrown. As mentioned earlier commercial property owners should be encouraged to maintain side entrance to a high standard as this can detract from the overall impression of the streetscape.

General Impression:

Very good! All large towns have problem areas and it will always be a struggle to maintain a consistent level of presentation. You are clearly on the right track and have a good Management/Development plan and good support. This adjudicator looks forward to monitoring your progress in the years to come and has also vowed to return for a weekend break!