

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **MYSHALL**  
County : **CARLOW**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 12-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23
Landscaping	40	30
The Built Environment	40	29
Litter Control	40	30
Tidiness	20	15
Residential Areas	30	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>224</b>

## Adjudicator's Comments

### OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Although you have not submitted a 3/5 year plan of action for Myshall, you would appear to have a clear idea of what you would like to achieve for your town in the future. However, a strategy for developing the town's strong points and, indeed tackling problem areas is important for next year's competition. This should be based on the constructive remarks made in this report and formulating a 3/5 year plan of action for the town. The enthusiasm is obviously there, and your established relationships with Carlow County Council, local schools and FAS will, hopefully, be of great benefit to the community as a whole.

### WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Perhaps the best approach to this issue of wildlife/natural amenities would be to contact local environmental groups and experts who could advise you and provide you with the information you need to tackle this broad-ranging issue. From there you can then identify the wildlife habitats of your area and see what varieties of animals, birds, fish and plantlife these attract. Involve the local schoolchildren in this project-they will hopefully bring a fresh enthusiasm for the wealth of wildlife in their locality.

### LANDSCAPING

The standard in this category was generally quite good, although care must be taken to ensure that the presentation is appropriate to the character of the village. The grotto was beautifully simple in its presentation. The wallflowers of the raised bed to the granite wall of the forecourt area to the Community Hall looked very colourful. St. Bridget's Well was beautifully maintained, although the well itself, and hence the channel feeding the water wheel were dry. The tubs either side of the entrance looked well as did the large chestnut tree within the grounds. The graveyard with its majestic yew trees was admirably maintained. However, the window boxes in their wrought iron frames hanging along the side wall are unsuccessful, sporting as they do some dead planting. The village pump in its dominant position at the main junction, could be improved upon in terms of presentation. The top was missing and the planters either side looked quite bare.

### THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

While the public buildings of the village were well presented, the commercial premises were quite inconsistent. The charming Catholic Church could be freshened before next year's competition, although the grounds were delightfully maintained. Work was in progress in the vicinity of the Community Centre, which itself looked reasonably fresh in yellow. However, the tarmacadamed forecourt area was quite pot-holed. The school was very fresh, although the coping to the boundary wall was unpainted. Some bare patches were apparent to the grounds, although the trees looked well. The dominant Neo-Gothic Church of Ireland looked truly magnificent with its majestic gravelled avenue of yew trees on a raised grass bank. Some green algae growth was apparent to the gate. The charming Post Office could be freshened before next year's competition, although the sign and box were very fresh. The newsagents/grocery/bar could be freshened before next year. The shop opposite sported an abundance of window stickers. The bench outside should be painted. The pub had an abundance of inappropriate plastic signage.

### LITTER CONTROL

Some litter was apparent on the day. A small amount was noted to Main Street, some papers and cans were visible opposite the school and beside the rather battered metal fence to the netball pitch. Quite a lot of litter was visible along the Church of Ireland road.

### TIDINESS

The initial impression created was a very neat and tidy one. However, closer inspection revealed a couple

of minor problem areas. The retention of the traditional phone box is commendable, although it could be freshened up, and the perspex was staining badly. An attractive old metal gate opposite the school should be restored to its former glory.

#### RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Although some of the houses needed freshening, most of the houses and gardens of the town were presented to a very high standard on Adjudication Day. Some boundary walls to the housing estate could be freshly painted as could that grubby low boundary wall to the derelict site. Two splendid gardens opposite the Church of Ireland were especially admired.

#### ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The standard in this category could have been higher. The flyposting had not quite been removed on the Borris road. The verges however were neat and the wild purple rhododendrons were admired. The "Myshall" and the speed limit sign were both quite battered and grubby. The road to the Church of Ireland had well kept verges, due to its residents. This approach to the village is truly magnificent, with the church spire and the hills beyond. The Bunclody road was neater in appearance. However, the speed limit sign was quite grubby. Hedge-trimming was in progress along the Tullow road, while the wild lilac looked marvellous.

#### GENERAL IMPRESSION

The village of Myshall, with its fine neo-Gothic church is set amongst magnificent pastoral scenery. Greater effort needs to be made in terms of some commercial properties and in creating a proper "centre" to the village.

#### SECOND ADJUDICATION (12/08/96)

The first adjudication covered almost everything that could be assessed, and it was rewarding to see that attention had been given to some of the issues already. The general impression is very good - the work on the St Brigid's well area is most successful, and the area which seemed least successful was the car park between the well and the community centre. A design scheme for this area would be a worthwhile initiative, as it could enhance both the community centre and the park. The village pump occupies such a central position that it might be worth designing a paving scheme around it, in conjunction with better road definition. Rigorous attention to detail will boost making in the future for a most attractive village.