

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **MULLINAVAT**  
County : **KILKENNY**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 17-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13
Landscaping	40	27
The Built Environment	40	28
Litter Control	40	31
Tidiness	20	15
Residential Areas	30	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>211</b>

## Adjudicator's Comments

### OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The adjudicator had not been in Mullinavat for some years. The improvements are remarkable. Inspection revealed the extent of the work undertaken and still continuing. It is good to read of the support given to the Committee's efforts both in cash and in kind, and it is assumed - though you do not say so on the application form (but please do in future) - that you are in contact with official local and national organisations and perhaps have a FAS scheme in operation. Your map has been helpful in identifying projects completed or ongoing - but please provide the list of sites on the map and not on the reverse of the sheet! Your listing of projects to be considered for the Village Renewal Scheme is impressive and appropriate.

### WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

This is a new heading in the Competition and a nominal mark is being given to those centres where there has not been time to initiate suitable work. There are obvious riverine, woodland and pastoral opportunities in the neighbourhood. The two walks, in so far as they are now incomplete for the reasons explained, pass through areas of natural interest.

### LANDSCAPING

Trim hedges, neat verges, and bright areas of planting really set off the built environment to advantage. Much more has been made of the traditional parish pump, with its attendant tubs of flowers, in Mullinavat than in most other centres. Excellent trimming was seen wherever there are hedges, especially on the New Ross road and the Hugginstown road where a mixture of beech, sloe and ivy is attractive in its natural way. Fine mature trees are well conserved. The polygonal green at the south end of the village is attractive and was very trim on adjudication day.

### THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

It is quality of the streetscape with its small business premises seen as a cohesive entirety which gives Mullinavat its real character, rather than individual buildings. However, the handsome R.C. Church makes an imposing architectural statement in its pleasant grounds and elevated site. The school and the community centre are well kept. The Rising Sun pub was presented with real flair; the B&B premises opposite the Shell garage was really inviting; and Reade's Bar was photographed with a view to entering it for the traditional shopfront award. A pity about some dereliction. The disused Saw Mill is just the right kind of property for the craft-orientated purpose proposed.

### LITTER CONTROL

There was a little litter in the village centre on adjudication day, but none to be seen in the outlying areas.

### TIDINESS

Virtual absence of litter and good weed control (except at one point near the centre) and a minimum of obtrusive signs, all contributed to a remarkably well kept village environment.

### RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The variegated colours of the older street houses, particularly at the curve of the east side, is one of the most attractive features of the village. Obviously there is great pride taken by residents in their homes, some of which, on the outskirts, have pretty gardens. There is a beautifully presented house (railwayman's cottage?) with splendid floral displays by the northernmost level crossing. Glen Crescent was looking very spruce; a new housing scheme opposite with attractive dormers and porches should be

attractive when completed, provided there is appropriate landscaping work.

#### ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Road surfaces are unusually good, even on side roads; verges of the main north-south approaches were looking very trim on adjudication day, as were verges and ledges on the side roads. The car-park beside the rising Sun is very well presented, with a fine wall and fencing. The car park by the Sports Field was not nearly so well looked after; concrete walls here could do with more effective screening by planting climbers, or even a hedge. The car park beside the church looked fine - it could almost be mentioned under 'Landscaping'. Several good stone walls were noted, with a specially impressive one (in the course of construction on adjudication day) between the Hugginstown road bridge and the school entrance. It is good to see that many historical sites and remains in the neighbourhood are well signposted.

#### GENERAL IMPRESSION

Because much imaginative use has been made of bringing natural features into the village, and because the main street and immediate side streets have not been suburbanised, a truly picturesque village feeling has been revived without artificiality. There is a feeling of confidence and prosperity' and while there are still - as everywhere else - sites which require upgrading, it is clear from the documentation that such improvements are on the way.

#### SECOND ADJUDICATION

Your plan for village renewal is a good start, and would work better if you tried to put a timescale on proposed projects. Also, a detailed map of the town would be useful. You will need to focus in greater detail as to what needs to be done and how it will be funded. You are climbing up to the higher level of the competition and marks are more difficult to obtain at this level. One natural amenity is Poulanassy waterfall which is in need of a thoughtful plan. This area could be developed over time. There was some litter visible in the town along Main Street near the shops. Bins were scarce and had no liners. You will need to be vigilant about this. Many buildings in the town were freshly painted and had displays of windowboxes - well done! There were a few untidy side yards and gables needing attention - in short pay attention to details as they are the areas where you can gain more marks.