

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **MOUNT COLLINS**
County : **LIMERICK**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 23-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20
Landscaping	40	26
The Built Environment	40	25
Litter Control	40	23
Tidiness	20	9
Residential Areas	30	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	18
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	300	172

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

You mention in your entry that you have village plan drawn up, however you did not submit it with your application. You should do so with next year's entry. The enthusiasm to present the village to its best possible advantage is obviously there, along with the potential for success.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Mount Collins has many unique natural features, including its beautifully maintained riverside area, with its trees overhanging the water's edge and quaint bridges throughout the village. Wild flowers were apparent in the hedgerows including wild ferns near the school and wild foxgloves and hazelnuts to the terrace road. The wild daisies by the "drive carefully through the village" sign were an absolute delight.

LANDSCAPING

Simple yet effective efforts had been made in terms of landscaping presentation. Particularly effective were the stone kerbed wild planted bed and displayed farm machinery in front of the houses at the Abbeyfeale end of the village. The grotto by the bridge looked magnificent with its wealth of planting including purple rhododendrons. However some weeding was necessary to the gravelled forecourt area.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

There would appear to be an unfortunate amount of dereliction and neglect in the village which give an overall bad impression. The display of inappropriate plastic signage such as those at both Naughton's grocery shop and bar should be discouraged, and the proprietors encouraged to replace them with more traditional timber ones. The latter also appeared to be quite grubby. The church was reasonably well maintained but could be freshened up before next year's Competition. Similarly, the Community Hall was reasonably fresh, although some weeds were apparent to the forecourt area. Some effort should be made to disguise/camouflage the gas tank. There appeared to be quite a collection of farm machinery in the general vicinity of the hall, and the wall to the football pitch behind should be plastered and painted. The school looked very fresh in a cream colour with a brown trim-don't forget to include the back of the bike shed when painting. The back of the school playground appeared to be slightly weedy, as was the base of the boundary wall and the adjacent carpark area. The Telecom Station was undergoing work on Adjudication Day. The Golden Vale creamery could be cleaned up -the building freshly painted and the yard area tidied up or screened from public view.

LITTER CONTROL

The village was generally litter free on the day but for one broken and overflowing plastic litter bin.

TIDINESS

The village looked quite neat and tidy on the day. However, a concrete fence beside the "drive carefully through the village sign" looked to be in need of freshening up. The bowed and bent telegraph pole by the bridge near the creamery should be reinstated.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard in this category was quite high- conditions are obviously very conducive to promoting growth, because the gardens of the village were positively bursting with life and there was great evidence of industry among the local gardeners! Those worthy of particular mention were a beautiful garden on the Abbeyfeale road, the pretty blue cottage with its garden of lupins, pansies and poached eggs, the other quaint cottage with aubretia and Easter lilies, the lovely orange house with hanging baskets, the lovely garden on the lower road with lupins and peony roses, and the garden with the magnificent

rhododendrons on the lower road. The new houses looked to be rather overgrown with barbed wire to the front. The terrace appeared quite fresh, although some of the houses further along could be freshened-up and the open space appeared quite neglected. The attractive cottages with their tin roofs could be freshly painted in order to restore them to their former glory. The attractive house at the cross-roads had some magnificent hanging baskets suspended from its outbuilding. The magnificent creeper-clad stone house with the red door opposite the graveyard looked quite splendid.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

More effort is required in this category before next year's competition. Road signage was generally quite grubby and the verges of the roads quite overgrown-obscuring these signs. There were roadworks in progress as potholes were filled in on the Abbeyfeale road-the existing road surfaces are absolutely appalling! The wild hazel, wild rhododendrons, foxgloves and wild roses in the hedgerows looked truly magnificent. The village nameplate sign on this road appeared to be quite grubby. Road signage in general could have been presented to a higher standard. Those by the crossroads were quite rusty, that near the creamery was faded, along the lower road the junction sign by the school was almost obscured by overgrowth, as was the yield sign on the other side and both this sign and the town nameplate sign were quite grubby. The road to the Community Centre was quite overgrown.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The scattered village of Mount Collins is one of immense charm and tremendous potential. A magnificent view back towards village from the crossroads of the grotto with its backdrop of permanent planting, the main street of the village snaking up behind, and the tower and gable of the church peeking up behind was quite breathtaking. Tremendous efforts had been made in terms of both private residences and public spaces -much painting and general activity was taking place.