

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **MURROE**  
County : **LIMERICK**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 10-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20
Landscaping	40	31
The Built Environment	40	30
Litter Control	40	23
Tidiness	20	10
Residential Areas	30	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>203</b>

## Adjudicator's Comments

### OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Although you did not present a three or five year work plan, you would appear to have a distinct idea of what you would like to accomplish in the future for Murroe. Your relationship and level of communication with FAS, Shannon Development and Limerick County Council is to be commended. However, it is important to formulate a written programme in order to identify the weak areas, and stress the town's strengths in order that you may focus on these problem areas and advance the town's strong points. Many thanks for your comprehensive responses to the questionnaire and clear map which were both invaluable on Adjudication Day.

### WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Maybe the best approach to this topic of wildlife/natural amenities would be to approach your local environmental groups and experts who could advise and assist you with the information you need to tackle this extensive area. From there you can then identify the wildlife habitats of your locale and establish what varieties of wildlife (animals, birds, fish and plant life) these attract. Include the local schoolchildren in this project as you seem to have a strongly established relationship with them. They will hopefully bring a fresh enthusiasm for the abundance of wildlife in their local environs. Perhaps the prominent field opposite the Garda Station and school could be sown with wild flower seeds to create an attractive natural feature to the top of Main Street.

### LANDSCAPING

The standard in this category was high on Adjudication Day. Your aspirations for the monument as expressed in the questionnaire, were fully realised as it looked marvellous on the day. The grass surround to the Celtic Cross had been neatly cut. The new trees were coming on nicely; perhaps more could be planted where the road widens on Main Street in the vicinity of the church area, as it looks quite bare and desolate. The village pump was simply presented, with a stone wall surround, steps leading up to it and a couple of timber tubs filled with colourful flowers. Some litter was noted, however.

### THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Both the public and commercial premises of the town, for the most part, looked very well on the day. The Post Office looked charming, although the sign could have been fresher. The Romanesque style stone church was well presented, with pristine grounds. However, the railings should be painted before next year's competition. The school also looked very fresh, apart from the tower. The colourful murals were admired. The grounds of the Garda Station were beautifully maintained, with attractive raised stone planted bed to the front. As were those of Muintir na Tire, although the boundary wall looked quite grubby. Although the GAA clubhouse had been plastered, it had yet to be painted. The very fresh-planted beds outside the Credit Union were noted. The paintwork to the colourful Valley Inn was chipping slightly, and should be freshened. Ahern's grocery shop should remove the window stickers and excessive signage as these create a very cluttered appearance.

### LITTER CONTROL

Litter control would appear to be a problem. Quite a few papers were noted along Main Street, and rather a lot more in the vicinity of the village pump.

### TIDINESS

Tidiness is another problem area. The telephone box was quite grubby and the door was missing. The garage forecourt looked rather cluttered, and the bare yard area diagonally opposite the Post Office looked quite desolate. The broken doors to the charming forge have not yet been replaced. The timber fence alongside the Garda Station should be creosoted. A couple of unsightly looking outbuildings

created a bad impression. That with the rusty tin roof on the Annacotty road near the junction needs painting and that opposite the Post Office should treat its rusty tin roof.

#### RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard of residential properties in the village itself and along the approach roads was very good indeed. The brightly painted house beside the church was admired, although the boundary wall to the new house opposite should be painted. The thatched cottages opposite the Valley Inn had a reasonably well maintained common space. However, the grassy open space to Gilmartin Park was quite bare. The delightful pansy-filled garden opposite the monument looked quite charming. A weedy forecourt area was noted to a house adjacent to the garage. Both the school road and the road leading to the main Limerick road sported magnificent gardens. Those to the latter which extended down to the roadsides were particularly admired.

#### ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The standard in this category was quite inconsistent. Road signage could have been fresher. The children crossing sign was particularly grubby. The verges to the school road were uncut, the junction sign was quite battered and some kerb stones lying beside school will, presumably, be laid before too long. The verges on the Cappaghmore road were cut but the dead grass had not yet been removed. The newer directional signs were grubby and some cans were noted. The Annacotty road was well presented, with new planting either side of the road, attractive hedges and neatly trimmed verges. The road to the main Limerick road sported a neatly trimmed raised grass verge on a white-washed wall at the junction. Do try to bear in mind nesting time when hedge-cutting.

#### GENERAL IMPRESSION

The village of Murroe is one of great character, with a rich heritage of fine stone walls throughout. Great efforts seemed to have been made, and paid off!