

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **MOUNTSHANNON**
County : **CLARE**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 09-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22
Landscaping	40	31
The Built Environment	40	31
Litter Control	40	33
Tidiness	20	16
Residential Areas	30	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	300	228

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for an excellent submission complete with proposed development plan and maps. Your involvement with areas and activities outside of the village is commendable and your emphasis on the historic aspect of Mountshannon is praiseworthy and within the new criteria of Tidy Towns. Your proposals for the development of Aister will bring added focus on the village. Also the long distance walking route signage is praiseworthy and the signs are well designed and located.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

You have an opportunity here to add valuable marks and your location on Lough Derg and the vast amount of trees, shrubs and flowers give you an advantage over many other centres. You should consider erecting an illustrated birdlife/fishlife board at the harbour.

LANDSCAPING

This is your strong point and the vast amount of landscaped areas in the village at the harbour and on the principal approach roads reflect great credit on all concerned. The effects of FÁS are very evident and your task now is to keep the developed sites maintained to a high standard. On adjudication day almost all grass areas were in need of cutting except the village centre, which was being cut. The single strand of rust wire around the triangular area at the Scariff approach road should be removed - the small stakes are not necessary either. Landscaping at the harbour area excels and is further enhanced by the stone-work throughout. Presentation of trees was very good. A couple of trees on the main village area have been broken and should be replaced.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The village has undergone extensive building in recent years and building is ongoing. For the most part buildings are very well presented. The Craft Centre has potential to be unique and should be landscaped to a high standard. The school and churches are well presented, together with the hotel and other commercial buildings in the village. The Self Catering Scheme on the road to the harbour from the hotel has matured and is well presented. The entrance to the new scheme of holiday homes is quite overgrown and looks untidy. You have some attractive street furniture in the village centre. The presbytery is in need of improved presentation as it is on a strategic location. The Community Hall is colourful and well presented. The toilets were in a fair condition.

LITTER CONTROL

You have scored well in this section. Throughout the village, at the harbour area and on the approach roads litter was well controlled - in fact almost absent in total - well done!

TIDINESS

Tidiness covers all sections and some small undeveloped small spaces are unsightly. The undeveloped sites referred to last year still need attention. It is hoped that the building of the new houses beside The Bridge Bar will enhance this spot. The treatment of the unoccupied house on the Scariff approach is praiseworthy. The site beside Noel Lyons's is very poor in presentation and needs attention, also the small shed opposite The Bridge could be improved with roof painting for next year. You could add to your marks by painting the many rusty farm gates on the various approaches. You should seek the permission of the farmers and paint them yourselves. You are now at a standard in the competition where attention to detail is important. Your two principal approaches are very well presented but not so the approach by the Hall. The newly built stone wall has left a very unfinished road surface which should be tackled for '97. Actually the area around the Telecom Station is now a black spot. Also here, the speed limit signs need painting. The area around the fuel pumps could, with little effort be improved.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard of housing and maintenance is excellent. In particular, the landscaping treatment of private houses on the road from the monument is superb - extending to the gardens opposite. Signposting is good throughout. You should encourage builders of new houses to finish well and landscape before leaving the site.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

This new section is now laying emphasis on side and back lanes. Because of the layout of Mountshannon and the new developments, you now have a good deal of back areas quite visible from the public road. Traders in the village centre have done well and appreciate the commercial importance of well kept side and back entrances. The car park beside The Bridge is well presented with an attractive display of roses, but the car park opposite is poor in presentation. With regard to hedge cutting you will have to find a balance between cutting hedges too tightly and so removing the attractive wild flowers which were very visible on adjudication day and leaving hedges too overgrown with brambles extending to the pathways.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

It was a treat to spend some time in your beautiful village. You have all the ingredients for an ideal Tidy Town entry. You have done well and your challenge now is to keep up the maintenance, tackle the problem areas outlined and pay greater attention to detail - moltar sibh.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (02/08/96)

Since this adjudicator was last in Mountshannon (about five years ago) the sensitive development of the village and surroundings has proceeded in a spectacular way. Schemes which were in their infancy have impressively matured - especially the rehabilitation of old stone walls (some new walls were also noticed) and the landscaping of the shore-line and marina. There are some unsightly spots still, but they are in a minority. (Could a use be found for the handsome Market House?) Congratulations on truly remarkable work.