

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 26-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	37
The Built Environment	40	29	29
Landscaping	40	32	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	23
Litter Control	40	25	30
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	30
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	219	224

Myshall, Co. Carlow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Your Committee has some clear objectives in mind for 1997/1998 which are to be commended. All Tidy Towns committees are now required to produce a plan which will guide your activities over the next few years. The Plan should be a simple document and set out clearly your objectives to be covered. Keep the Plan short and simple. Do talk to your Tourism Officer for Carlow who should have some useful advice to give you. Your Committee has already established good relationships with the County Council, FAS, LEADER and local schools which is of great benefit to you.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Church grounds were well kept. The Garda Station would need to be painted. The Community Centre was well presented but the railings of the car park need painting as do the Grotto railings. Some of the commercial properties do need refurbishing and with encouragement will remove plastic signage. The School and Parochial House were again looking cared for. A very nice job was done on the village pump and you are to be complimented on this. Do encourage the shops, pubs, etc when refurbishing their properties to us bilingualism in signage. The same would apply to the Community Hall, School, Church and other public buildings where appropriate.

LANDSCAPING

The overall standard in this category was good. The trees planted are maturing well at the Church, Community Centre and car park. There is some delightful planting done on top of the red brick wall. The graveyard was well maintained. Perhaps the commercial properties could be encouraged to get window boxes, hanging baskets or a small number of large containers which would make an impact if plants are carefully chosen to suit the surroundings. Do seek some advice from your nearest garden centre proprietor or a horticulturist in or near the area who could give help and advice.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

I note your plan to create a water pond area later this year. The location beside the old graveyard would appear to be ideal as it does provide a home to a lot of plants, birds and animals. It will be a new area of activity for you and may appear daunting at the beginning, however, do not be overwhelmed. With some investigation and a little advice you will find it a most enjoyable task. Do contact the Conservation Volunteers of Ireland for the name of their local volunteer who will prove more than helpful to you. You may also have some local person who has an expertise and could advise you on what steps to take.

LITTER CONTROL

The litter control was reasonably good but some pieces were

observed at the stone wall on the Borris road and in the green trees on the Bunclody road and also at the Yield sign there. It was good to note that you have an anti-litter awareness project operating in the School. Do also involve youth and other community groups to help with the control and gathering of litter.

TIDINESS

The control of weeds at the kerbs was good. The telephone booth would need painting and cleaning. Gates into open spaces need attention on the approach roads.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The housing estate was well presented overall. Well done to all concerned ! The trees planted are maturing very well . The entrance looks most attractive. There is a nice blend of plants, trees and shrubs throughout. Almost all other properties are being maintained to a high standard and a few were exceptional.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Some road resurfacing needs to be done especially at the entrance to the housing estate. I note that you are liaising with the County Council on the above category. The approach roads were good in all areas. Again do pay attention to signs and gates to fields within the village. The street by the petrol pumps is stained with oil and would need cleaning.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Overall it has great potential to make headway in the competition. When you sit down and plan out your activities for the next few years, it will be a good starting point to make further progress. You are working at a steady pace. As mentioned in last years report greater effort will need to be made by the commercial sectors in the years ahead.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (15/08/97)

There is a very appealing sense of entry with a strong arrival at the centre of the village. Entry roads require more diligent maintenance as some are quite unsightly with lots of loose gravel which spoils the efforts of the Committee in keeping footways clear of litter. The oil spillage from the petrol pumps at the centre of the village has a marked appearance on the road surface. Litter was not kept to the high standard as previously noted in the summer, with the telephone kiosk being full of litter at the time of this adjudication. A new litter bin in the residential area should be re-placed at a lower height as it is too high for young children.