

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **MULLAGH**
County : **CAVAN**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 12-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	--
The Built Environment	40	28	--
Landscaping	40	23	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	--
Litter Control	40	22	--
Tidiness	20	11	--
Residential Areas	30	16	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	--
General Impression	10	6	--
TOTAL MARK	300	170	--

Mullagh, County Cavan

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The village of Mullagh is welcome to the competition in this its first year of entry. Thank you for your completed application form, although a map highlighting the areas which you would consider to be of importance within the village would have been useful. Your three to five year work programme would be extremely useful to you in terms of giving you a framework within which to work in order to improve upon your weak points and further enhance your strengths.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The standard in this category was quite high. Buildings in the village, generally, looked quite bright and cheerful. You are unfortunate in relation to the small number of inappropriate and out of scale plastic signs that are on show. These should be replaced with simpler unobtrusive signs such as that at Sheridan's Bar which looked very well in its simple but elegant presentation. Both the White Star and Jimmy's Bar were very fresh, the latter in particular with its cheerful but wet flags on adjudication day. The corner shop also looked very bright. The new National School could be freshened up, as could its boundary wall, although the grounds looked very well. Try to conceal the oil tank in the grounds, perhaps by building a timber pergola and growing a creeper up around it. The Church grounds looked very well with the abundance of mature trees, neatly clipped hedge and purple rhododendrons giving a splash of colour, against the backdrop of the strong elegant stone church with its square entrance tower. The old National School is ripe for redevelopment as it is currently boarded up. The grounds to the Heritage Centre with its attractive stone wall were well maintained (although the same comment as that to the school is relevant in relation to the oil tank). The adjudicator was disappointed to note that the Ogham stone had been removed from its original position and relocated within the Heritage Centre building. The hedge with ferns growing through it on the stone face to the graveyard looked extremely well. The GAA building looked very fresh but the bare block boundary wall could be enhanced by plastering or even just painting it.

LANDSCAPING

Although the landscaping within the village looked well for the most part, there is scope for further enhancement. The area with car parking, chain-link fence and concrete flower tubs to the front of the Mullagh Mill could be landscaped in a more sympathetic manner. The incidental square space off the centre of Main Street at the Green Lantern looked well although the road surface surrounding it was in bad condition. The forecourt area of the GAA grounds on the Kells Road looked quite bleak and is ripe for landscaping development. The area by St. Killian's Well could be developed further, perhaps taking your cue from the simple and

peaceful presentation of the lake with its lily pads, yellow bog irises, ducks and swans sheltering from the rain on a wet adjudication day!

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Mullagh is fortunate in this category in terms of its wealth of mature trees, mature grounds and adjacent lake. In order to develop this category further it would be important to get in touch with national bodies such as ENFO and Conservation Volunteers of Ireland who will aid you in identifying existing areas of wildlife importance, surveying your village and formulating a management plan. The involvement of local school children and local experts in this field would also be useful.

LITTER CONTROL

The standard in this category was reasonably good although one or two papers were evident, particularly along Main Street and outside shops.

TIDINESS

The overall impression created by the village with its freshly painted buildings and wide main street is one of neatness and order. However, one or two areas still need attention, particularly the unsightly silo building with its boundary wall which could be improved upon. The empty skip outside Gibney's created a bad impression and should be removed when its use is complete. The dominant out building/garage on the top of Main Street at the Kingscourt Road junction should be freshened up. It looked quite cluttered with signage missing from vertical posts, which should be removed.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard in this category was quite good also with many houses, both within the village in particular and along approach roads, looking well cared for. The residents of the two houses along the Kells Road with their colourful gardens and the stone boundary walls to the front obviously show great pride in their properties. Care should be taken to ensure that boundary walls are freshly painted as grubby ones along approach roads create a bad impression.

ROAD, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The standard in this category was generally quite good. The approach roads within the area defined by the speed limit signs are quite short and therefore their presentation should be near perfect. The verges were neat on the Bailieboro Road. Directional signs at the junction of the Kingscourt Road with Main Street needed washing. Kells Road is a very attractive approach. The wild daisies, foxgloves and hedgerows were most attractive. The speed limit signs going back into town sported some graffiti however. The hedgerows along the Virginia Road were well clipped, a sprinkling of wild flowers here would look very well within the hedgerows. It is important to bear in mind nesting time when cutting hedgerows.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Mullagh is an attractive market village with its wide main street and cheerfully painted buildings and has a unique cultural and historical heritage. The village looked very well on adjudication day and hopefully the remarks/comments contained within the report will help you to progress in the competition to your full potential.