

*"Caring for our environment"*

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

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 08-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	43	41
The Built Environment	40	31	31
Landscaping	40	33	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	22
Litter Control	40	33	33
Tidiness	20	18	16
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	26
General Impression	10	9	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>228</b>

## **Mounthshannon, Co. Clare**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

The documentation submitted by the Community Council with the completed Tidy Towns entry form was most informative and a good indication of the continuing work throughout the village to emulate its previous successes in the Competition. The Development Plan (1996 - 2,000) is a well thought-out, comprehensive approach to the continued integrated development of the village and its environs. The Aistear Iniscealtra project under construction is an imaginative drawing together of the village's rich culture and heritage and promises to be a most exciting development - its location linking the lakeshore with the village is particularly appropriate. The Woodpark Development in association with Coillte and Clare County Council is another Community Council project that is to be commended, especially the proposed Long Wall development to link the woodland amenity area with Logan's Bridge in the village. The environmental project - the re-cycling plant, nursery and arboretum and community awareness programme on re-cycling of waste and renewal - is another important project being undertaken. The adjudicator found all of these reports most useful in evaluating the development approach and the extent of both community involvement and that of statutory/other bodies and groups. The Community Council's involvement with the East Clare Way and Iniscealtra is a good indication of the Council's interest in development beyond the boundaries of the village itself, integrating its lakeshore setting with the surrounding countryside. The completion of their present work programme is to be much anticipated.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

From its early days as a model village, Mounthshannon has obviously changed but much of its original 18th century charm remains. Buildings throughout the village are well maintained - the shops, pubs, post office, the Cupan Caife, the Village Hotel, the Hall, the Church and school are worthy of mention. The Lakeside Caravan Park, Oakhouse B & B, the Mounthshannon House Holiday Apartments on the Whitegate road were also noted. The Sandycove Holiday Homes development could well improve the entrance to the site from here. The other holiday complex, Mounthshannon Village Cottages on the harbour road is still an attractive, well-maintained development. The Bridge Inn and the craft shop opposite enhance the approach from Scariff, although the surrounds of the attractive thatched craft shop should be better landscaped or look less bare. The Iniscealtra monument at the top of the Shannon Road is interesting but somewhat hidden.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The total landscaped areas in Mounthshannon are impressive from the mature trees and grassed areas along the main street to the

excellent treatment of the harbour area and along the lakeshore, especially the area between the harbour and the Iniscealtra Sailing Club. Landscaping on the approach roads, e.g. on the Whitegate road is excellent as is the presentation and maintenance of stone walls throughout the village. The area at the harbour in front of the lifeguard station is being well-maintained and the screened waste-oil and refuse skip duly noted. The list of completed environmental projects listed in your report were also noted.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The range of wildlife and natural habitats and Mountshannon's location on Lough Derg and the wooded and planted areas around, are a distinct advantage over other centres in the Competition. The wildlife project proposed for 1998 sounds interesting.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

The standard of litter control and the regular monitoring of this is obviously achieving the objective of keeping the village and the harbour area virtually litter-free, at least on the day of adjudication when the place was quite busy.

## **TIDINESS**

The situation in this section has somewhat improved but it is the back lanes and entries between buildings, gates, incidental areas, away from but visible from the street, that need attention at this level in the Competition. This general comment was made in 1996 and is still relevant.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Throughout the village individual houses are continuing to make a noteworthy contribution to the overall appearance of the village, with some excellent presentations of landscaping and planting. It is an indication of the degree of commitment on the part of individual householders to the community effort and the work of the Council.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

The approach roads from Scariff and Whitegate are excellent; the main street looked well and the Shannon Road along the lakeshore plus the other harbour road from the Village Inn are most attractive. Back lanes, etc. have already been commented on. The minor approach along the Hall mentioned in 1996 could be improved further. Road signs and other signage throughout the village are being well-maintained.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The village is taking every advantage of its strengths - location, natural amenities, lakeshore, wildlife, etc. and drawing on its pleasant rural setting and the culture and heritage of the area. Attention to detail and completion of the ambitious work programme being undertaken will reap their own rewards.

## **SECOND ADJUDICATION (14/08/97)**

The attractive village of Mountshannon has maintained a consistently high level of presentation in the competition since its win in 1981. This year was no exception. The buildings throughout the village were well maintained. One area of detailed presentation: perhaps the murals to the abandoned building adjacent to An Cupan Caife could be freshened up before next years competition. The 30 mph speed limit sign appeared to be slightly grubby, and the house beside the Post Office could be freshened up before next years competition. Besides this all the buildings had a very neat ordered and fresh appearance, as indeed did Mountshannon. Quite an amount of construction work is in progress, hopefully these buildings will be sympathetic to the nature of the village itself. The holiday homes leading down to the waterside are the standard to be gauged by, as these, despite being modern, by their use of proportion and materials are appropriate to the vernacular quality of the rest of the village. Landscaped areas throughout had a simple, restrained and elegant quality and were quite immaculate. The busy riverside area, in particular, (despite the numbers of people taking full advantage of the activities it had to offer) looked marvellous. All in all, a consistently high standard has been maintained over the years, and the village is a credit to all concerned.