

Tidy Towns 1997

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **MULLAGH**
County : **CLARE**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 18-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	25
The Built Environment	40	24	22
Landscaping	40	23	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	25	23
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	16	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	21
General Impression	10	6	5
TOTAL MARK	300	169	162

Mullagh, County Clare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The ongoing work of the Mullagh Development Committee is to be commended. The village is set in lovely surroundings and has potential to do well in the competition. In a relatively small village the Square is a bonus and should be built upon (see landscaping). Also the car park near the Garage could be developed into a nice picnic area. As the application form was only partially completed it was difficult for the adjudicator to know what work, except for the installation of new litter bins, had taken place since last year. It would be recommended that in future you should give the adjudicator as much information as possible as otherwise your good work may not be appreciated. Also it would be recommended that a simple plan (no more than a few pages) with action items and a suggested time scale be put in place. However, you have made the first step which is the most important one.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Many buildings in the village look well such as OKellys, Dalys Pub and the Centra Shop. The Church is tidy and well maintained and the tubs and seat outside create a nice atmosphere in the Square. Conways Bar with its window boxes is very well presented - however, the gate adjacent to it needs painting. The gable end of Killeens pub which faces towards the Kilkee road is very visible when entering the village from this approach, and needs to be painted as does the wall between Killeens and Meaneys. In the main street, Scanlans could be an extremely attractive building if painted. The shed/store on the right hand side past Dalys also needs painting. The derelict building which has been painted and given window boxes is a good attempt to disguise an unsightly building until a more permanent solution may be found. Mullagh National School is well presented. The Community Hall is tidy but could do with some planting outside and also a freshening up paintwise. A creeper such as Virginia creeper would provide cover for this long bare wall. Tubridys Garage, which extends to both sides of the road, is obviously a busy premises. It would be good here if the door and window surrounds to the Office could be painted and the Estuary Sign facing the Cree road were replaced.

LANDSCAPING

In a number of areas in the village some landscaping has been carried out to good effect - i.e. on both sides of the road leading in to Finuremore Park, at the two pumps and in front of the Church. In the case of the left hand park coming out of the Estate where there is a good green space we would suggest that this be developed further with more seating and planting - mountain ash or rowan trees would seem an attractive option here. At the pump in the Square we feel that this area is very important as a central meeting place in the town and would suggest that more is made of the pump feature, perhaps by developing a small patio type area with the pump and a unit made of stone or wood incorporating

seating and flower planters, advice on this should be obtained from the County Council. In the same way, a planned and well landscaped picnic area with one or two tables could be provided at the back of the car park near the Garage. With regard to the second pump on the village street, the trough which is now planted with a mesh around it should be overflowing with flowers and colour so that this mesh is not seen (in fact it should be removed if possible). Also the seat here should be replaced and the tub of flowers - which again should be planted with great colour - should be moved to another location. Both pumps would need to be nicely painted at all times.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

As you are situated in an area of great natural beauty it would be good to investigate the possibility of developing an awareness of the flora and fauna in your area. For a start perhaps you could get the local school children to do a study of same.

LITTER CONTROL

We noted the new litter bins, well placed about the town during our visit. These appear to be effective as there was very little litter in evidence and the bins were full on the day of the adjudicators visit. We would suggest that the old litter bin on the pole in the centre of the town be removed and replaced with a new one.

TIDINESS

As mentioned last year, there are a number of overgrown spaces and dilapidated buildings around the town which give an air of untidiness and these should be targeted for action.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

In general most of the private housing in and around the village is very well presented and on the main street most of the buildings are nicely colour co-ordinated. Winterhaven deserves a special mention. At Finuremore Park the houses and green area are well presented and tidy. The disguise for the septic tank is an imaginative idea that works. Work was on going in this area during the adjudicators visit.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Except for Finuremore Park there are no side streets in Mullagh and the approach roads are what we are talking about in this section. Mostly these have been left in a natural state which can be attractive but the briars and nettles must be cut back or they get out of hand. Nearer to the village the banks should be cut back thoroughly. At the green space at the crossroads leading to Kilkee perhaps this could be planted with year round shrubs to make it an attractive entrance to the village. On this approach also there is an unsightly gate where a rusting tank and an old gate have been used as a temporary stop gap. The village speed signs need to be repainted. On the Cree approach road we would suggest that work on the verges start at the house before the speed signs - this is only about 100 metres and would make a big difference. The paths in front of Sextons Shop and in some other areas around the village need to be properly edged.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The village has started on the right road and whilst much still needs to be done, Mullagh has already benefited from the work undertaken to date. It is important that all the community become involved in making the village a good place to live in and also to visit. Keep up the good work and we look forward to seeing further developments.