

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **MOUNTBELLEW**
County : **GALWAY**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 01-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	35
The Built Environment	40	28	26
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	21
Litter Control	40	29	28
Tidiness	20	16	15
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	27
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	218	208

Mountbellew, Co. Galway

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your completed entry form, detailed map and brief update summary on developments since 1996. Mountbellew are making a strident effort to improve its position in the Tidy Towns Competition. Keep up the effort but watch your developments and achievements to date, previous achievements can slip when committee's efforts are directed to new areas or ventures. It is good to see you offer all the community the opportunity to participate in your efforts and it would seem the majority respond and support your work for the greater community of Mountbellew.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The work on the forge was ongoing on the day of adjudication and when completed will be an asset to the area. The colleges, school and Church looked well and attention to detail with the grounds is commendable. The majority of commercial premises are making an effort and indeed look very well. The County Council area offices and fire station grounds require attention with litter mixed with the shrubs and some of the paving slabs requiring replacing. We recommend the properties with plastic signs to replace same. The footpath improvements on the approach roads were noted and the bridge with the flower baskets were colourful and well presented.

LANDSCAPING

The landscaping, planting and trees on the approach roads look very well. The development of the square is vital to Mountbellew, many a village and town in the Country would dearly like to have such a focal point and resource, it is a pity that no progress has been achieved to date. The planting at Mountbellew Co-Op and roadside looked well. The Bellew Riverside park is a fine example of a community effort and natural asset, it is important that it is closely monitored for the following reasons, Branches of trees were in the river and were there for some time, the odd bit of litter was on the ground and two bins were overflowing. Along the upper footpath near the lake woodland growth should be kept in check and where trees and shrubbery have been planted heavy growth should be cut back. If at all possible additional water should be let flow into the lower section as it was very low on adjudication day.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Suitable information plaques should be provided to inform visitors and the community on the wildlife and the various woodland, wetland, grasslands habitats in the area. Mountbellew has a wealth of natural amenities and they should be maximised.

LITTER CONTROL

You are doing well with your litter campaigns as there was no major evidence of litter, a small amount of litter was in evidence

near the Garda Station. Following market day the litter and boxes stored and left at the kiosk had been removed.

TIDINESS

There is a high standard of tidiness throughout Mountbellew and weeds appear to be under control. It is important that the owners of any neglected properties are encouraged to improve them as this will add to the tidiness and neatness factor of Mountbellew. The newly renovated corner property with its railings, at the square, looks very well and improves the streetscape and tidiness factor.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Forest View and Pine Grove Estates are making an effort with individual houses, gardens and open spaces looking well. Where developments take place near existing residential housing suitable screening should be put in place at the rear and side of the new properties.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Your approach roads look very well, the stone walls and footpaths interspersed with the planting of shrubs, flowers and trees. yes it is a pity when vandalism can be a problem, but on adjudication day all looked fine. The cluttering of footpaths and roadsides with material from commercial premises and with sandwich boards should be discouraged. It can lead to difficulty with access for the disabled and also give an appearance of untidiness.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Keep up the effort, the community spirit and co-operation. Work to your three year plan, review it and set new targets for the next three to five years. Mountbellew is maintaining its progress in the competition, more work lies ahead, progress takes time and endless effort. Good Luck.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (6/8/97)

It is a great pity that no progress has yet been made on the town square project as it would create improved order on a grand scale in place of the present collection of discordant elements. Otherwise great strides forward have been made in recent times - the park being one of the more notable. Some litter regrettably was noted at the bridge. It is important that you consider the view to the back areas (ie, the rear facades and sheds) where visible from the public domain. The litter bins on the Tuam Road near the bottle banks were overflowing. In general, the approach roads were well presented but at your high level in the competition you need to pay rigorous attention to any drab walls or fences. All recent work to stone walls is particularly commended. The wall at the Regional Co-op was somewhat detracted from, unfortunately, by the weedy entrance area. Field gates generally would benefit from repair and/or paint. Details such as the presence of occasional heaps of sand/gravel which do not appear to be in use are relevant. Another example of localised lack of care was the shabby seat and litter bin with its front open at the wall along from The Last Post. The stone arch next to Cunningham's is an

important part of the historic street scape - the planted tub in front makes a good composition but the grass on top diminished the effect. The vacant garage in the square occupies an important visual location; hopefully soon the site will be redeveloped with a sensitively scaled and proportioned building. The above negative comments are intended to be constructive criticism to assist you develop the town to an even higher standard.