

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **MULLINAVAT**
County : **KILKENNY**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 02-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	35
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	28	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	13
Litter Control	40	32	31
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	32
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	214	211

Mullinavat, County Kilkenny

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

It is good to note that you continue to receive strong support from your Community and the statutory bodies in your area for the excellent work which you are carrying out and which was very evident on adjudication day. Thank you for sending the map which was most useful. However, the experience is that success in the Tidy Towns Competition only comes with careful planning on a 3-5 year-basis and the production of this plan should be a matter which your Committee should give serious consideration to in preparation for next year. There is no need to hire consultants or such people to do this plan. It can be done very simply in conjunction with your Local Authority, other statutory bodies and your local Community, the purpose being to identify what needs to be done and what you can realistically achieve over the next 5 years within your physical and financial resources. In the event a copy of this plan with your next entry would be most useful. You received an in-depth report from last year's adjudicator. The following comments should be taken within the context of that report.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

As last year, the quality of the streetscape in Mullinavat is its strong point. The wonderful old world type premises in the Main Street, both commercial and residential, were beautifully presented on adjudication day. However a matter which might be considered for the future would be the use of a Colour Consultant to perhaps bring more harmony into the colour schemes. Such consultants are usually available free or for a nominal fee from paint manufacturers. This would have the effect of coming up with an overall plan for the enhancement of this particular street. All business premises again looked exceptionally well and reflect great credit on the business people of Mullinavat.

LANDSCAPING

It is nice to note that, under this heading, you took some of the advice of last year's adjudicator, particularly in relation to the traditional parish pump. On adjudication day Mullinavat was a blaze of colour with beautifully presented tubs of flowers, hanging baskets, window boxes, etc. Your open spaces were very well kept. For the future you might consider the judicious planting of trees and shrubs in suitable places. The emphasis here is on the word judicious as to do otherwise only causes clutter, the objective being to soften the landscape. In the case of shrubs you might consider those of a flowering type which will give you some colour on an all-year-round basis. When embarking on a landscaping programme you should consult very closely with your Local Authority and Coillte or you may have in your Community or on your Committee a person who is knowledgeable in these matters. The Grotto looked very nice on adjudication day and the excellent work which is being carried out at the Old Saw Mill must

get special mention. Congratulations to all concerned.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The comments by last year's adjudicator are still appropriate. This is a comparatively new category in the competition with the emphasis on the conservation and enhancement of wildlife habitats and the environment. Woodland, rivers, ponds, hedgerows, grass margins, open spaces, graveyards and walls are important habitats and your Committee should try to identify those in your area and then determine the appropriate action to be taken to conserve and enhance them. The guidelines in the Tidy Towns book offer other suggestions as to the type of initiatives you might undertake. Please take the best advice possible on this and if there is a local wildlife expert or a member of your Community with experience in this area, your Committee should draw on them.

LITTER CONTROL

There was very little litter to be seen on adjudication day. Congratulations to all concerned. Continue to be vigilant.

TIDINESS

Again the village was presented in a very neat and tidy manner. The interesting development of the derelict site on main street was noted. The Committee however might pay some attention to the number of signs which seem to be appearing on many premises and, in particular, in the area of the Shell Garage and The Rising Sun. The Rising Sun premises is absolutely excellent but many of its signs, in the opinion of this adjudicator, do nothing for either the building itself or the adjacent buildings, many of which are built of stone. It was very noticeable on adjudication day the amount of signposting in evidence at that end of the village. All major public buildings were again very well presented and reflected the general ambience of the whole village.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Both private residences and estates were very well presented. However, the open spaces at St Patrick's Close were badly in need of weeding. If Mullinavat is to succeed further in the competition it will be absolutely essential that the continued support of the individual residents in the presentation of their premises is forthcoming. There were many wonderful gardens on view enhancing the already splendid efforts of your Committee.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Some stone walls on approach roads are in need of repair and perhaps this could be a priority item when planning your 1998 Programme. Road surfaces and pathways are excellent and the new set of bollards in the vicinity of St Patrick's Close really do transform that whole area. Last year's adjudicators comments regarding the Sports Field are still applicable as indeed are the general comments under this heading. The main approach roads were very well kept, some of the side roads could do with attention particularly in the area of weeding.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Mullinavat continues to improve every year and this year is no exception. Further success will be brought about through careful planning and the identification of specific work to be done on yearly-basis.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (12/8/97)

The second adjudication of Mullinavat proved as enjoyable for the adjudicator as did the first. The village looked exceptionally well in many respects. Landscaping was colourful and appropriate. Most buildings were presented to a high standard and the new residential development at St. Patrick's Close was exceptional in its presentation. It was good to note that problem of weed control noted for first adjudication no longer existed by the time of our second visit in August. Some buildings at the top of the Graignamanagh Road were in need of improvement. A number of road signs and nameplates could be upgraded. The entrance to the main street from the New Ross Road was beautiful with its neatly presented old stone wall topped by colourful flower and shrub displays. This adjudicator supports the views of the first adjudicator in relation to the sports field and a co-ordinated colour scheme for the village. We look forward to the eventual ducting of service cables along the main street as these are quite visually obtrusive.