

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **MOUNT COLLINS**  
County : **LIMERICK**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 29-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27	25
The Built Environment	40	25	25
Landscaping	40	27	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	23	23
Tidiness	20	10	9
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	19	18
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>172</b>

## **Mountcollins, Co. Limerick**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for submitting your completed report, together with your development plan. You are now well poised to raise the standard of the village in almost all sections. It is imperative that you phase your work and try and complete one job at a time. The Fas work throughout the village is commendable, and presents you with an opportunity to carry out environmental works that will impact on the village for many years to come. It is imperative that you blend the new developments well with the existing ones and ensure that you retain the rural ethos of the village. Because of the large area covered by the village it is important to link the various geographical segments successfully. This can be done by appropriate environmental developments.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

One of the villages distinctions is the great amount of corrugated rooftops throughout the village - these extend to all types of buildings and where well presented are quite attractive. However, there is an inordinate amount of rusty roofs requiring painting and in some cases replacement. These should be tackled over a phased period. Apart from the newly surfaced road from the small housing estate to O'Sullivan's derelict house, road surface in the village is very poor. It may well be attended to by the time this report is published. The stone wall treatment by Fas will only be effective if accompanied by appropriate tree planting and landscaping - too much stone creates a coldness which you need to avoid. The church and environs dominate the village and need to be well presented. Quirke's pub and environs are well presented. The school is too far out to impact on the village, but it will continue to be assessed as part of the adjudication. It was well presented and litter free. The school should be signposted from the cross roads in the village similar to the Community Centre. The Community Hall itself is well presented but serious consideration should be given to the proposals in your plan, which would improve this large area.

### **LANDSCAPING**

You have scored well in this section and the individual effort of well presented front and side gardens is praiseworthy. The community effort is also good and the excellent rose display at the grotto is commendable. The small cultivated vegetable on the river bank opposite the grotto is homely and adds atmosphere. The many window boxes and hanging baskets enhance the village and reflect a keen interest by the community. You have a problem with numerous small unattended open spaces that, at a minimum, need a clean up. These should be tackled over a period. Your treatment of hedgerows is good and the village has a wide variety of hedgerows on the various approaches. Weedgrowth where troublesome should be sprayed in May for best effect. With the developments at the river, you will have good opportunity to

landscape effectively. Also consider some seating and perhaps a riverside walk which could be promoted as a leisure walk for locals and visitors.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

You are already scoring well in this section and the many areas along the river offer valuable habitats for the propagation of wildlife. In this respect it is important also to cultivate appropriate hedgerows that will offer feeding and cover to wildlife. When the works are complete at the river area opposite the grotto you should consider erecting a wildlife display board, illustrating the various species of wildlife in the area.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

It is apparent that efforts are well in hand to keep the village litter free and your efforts here are well rewarded. There is some dumping taking place on the side entrance to the G.A.A. field beside the Community Centre.

## **TIDINESS**

There is a good deal of new developments taking place in all parts of the village - many are not yet finished and require proper landscaping. Developers should be encouraged to finish well and remove rubble and unwanted material from building sites. Similarly much of the FAS work is leaving a lot of waste and should be finished out well before moving to the next stage of development. There are several farm gates that would enhance the village and the approaches if they were painted a bright colour. The building complex beside the cardphone kiosk is excellently presented and illustrates what can be done by neatness and fresh painting.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

In general, houses are well presented and many individuals have gone to great lengths to present their houses to a high standard. Try and get the newly developed houses to blend in well with the older ones. The housing estate up the hill could be enhanced with fresh painting and more colour. The great variety of flowers and shrubs enhance the whole village and this interest should be extended.

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

The poor road surface has already been referred to. Road signage is still in need of improvement. You might also consider a failte sign to the village. The competition now extends to side and back entrances and commercial buildings in particular have a part to play in this section. The road to the Community Centre has improved and the tree planting at the boundary fence is commendable.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

There is heartening evidence of much progress and you now have the challenge of keeping to your plan and making significant progress. You will need the backing of the whole community and

the relevant development agencies if you are to raise your standards overall. Play to your strengths and make full use of your natural landscape. Good luck for 1998.