

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **MYSHALL**
County : **CARLOW**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 20-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	37
The Built Environment	40	29	29
Landscaping	40	32	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	23
Litter Control	40	25	25
Tidiness	20	14	15
Residential Areas	30	25	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	6	7
TOTAL MARK	300	218	219

Myshall, County Carlow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Myshall is welcome to the 1998 Tidy Towns Competition.

Thank you for the helpful map and informative application form which you sent in this year. Do please next year try to prepare a plan for three to five years setting out your objectives over that time. It can be a short and simple document, but it is a requirement now for the competition and should help you to plan and review your work. Do consult with statutory bodies, like the County Council, the tourism officer and FAS.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

As indicated in last year's report the churches and their grounds both looked very well again this year and are a fine feature within the village. Similarly the school is looking well cared for but it would be a good idea to repaint the front boundary walls before next year. There is a derelict cottage opposite the school and also a somewhat neglected dwelling just a little further along the road opposite the school. It would be a good idea to see if there is something that can be done about these premises. You could consult with the County Council about this because they do have certain power with regard to derelict sites. The commercial premises in general looks well but the practice of displaying goods outside business premises on the street should be avoided or kept to a minimum as it creates a slightly untidy impression and detracts from the view of the buildings. It also makes safe passage for disabled people more difficult. Try to encourage the removal of plastic signage when the opportunity arises and its replacement with more appropriate signage for Irish villages.

LANDSCAPING

The standard, as last year, is good again this year. There are some attractive features along the walls and the graveyard is very well maintained. Window boxes and hanging baskets are all attractive. The containers in the carpark would benefit from being repainted before next year. At the pump in the centre of the village, there is an attractive tub but it was unfortunate that there is some litter and broken glass in that area. The open space up at the housing scheme, St. Olivers looks extremely well and the residents there and their committee are to be complemented on the work they have carried out and for the picnic tables. As mentioned last year, the bins are erected too high for children's use and are perhaps not the most attractive for this location. It would be a good idea if funds would permit to erect a bin or two near the picnic tables and that the bins would be made from similar material to the picnic tables.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

We look forward to seeing the results of your plans for the waterfront area which you mentioned in your report and is referred to last year. This is a very good initiative and there are many locations in the village which are ideal for the preservation and provision of natural habitats. Do involve the children in the school if you can in this work. This is an interesting aspect to the competition and should be very rewarding for all. Good luck in your future work in this area.

LITTER CONTROL

Unfortunately on the day of adjudication this year, the town had a very noticeable problem of litter. There was a large amount of litter outside Dillon's pub which is unfortunate. There was a scattering also on some of the streets and approach roads and some broken glass was found at the pump at the centre of the square. Do try and overcome this problem and return to the high standard that you had last year in the competition. The school children should be involved in this and strategically located litter bins should also help to overcome the problem. Your litter problem may cause you a serious loss of marks next year if not resolved.

TIDINESS

Unfortunately because there is a problem of litter this year on adjudication day, the overall impression is not as good as it might have been otherwise. The telephone booth is still in need of repainting. Some of the entrances on the approach roads are in need of tidying and clearance of weeds. Some building materials had been discarded. These should be removed before they sprout weeds. The standard of tidiness varied throughout the town.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Again this year the standard of presentation in St. Oliver's Estate was quite exceptional and the residents committee here and all those involved are to be commended for their good efforts and they should enjoy the benefits of their work. The flowers and the picnic tables are attractive features. Many dwellings along approach roads and within the village also looked well. There were also one or two which were not presented to the same standard as the other houses. Overall the standard of presentation under this heading is good this year.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The standard of presentation was a little variable this year. The restoration work done to the wall on Croppy road is to be commended. It was still not complete however on adjudication day, but when it is, it will look really well. Some of the verge cutting and hedge cutting had been done well, in other areas, however, it was in need of doing. It is always important to clear

away grass. As mentioned elsewhere, some entrances to properties were in need of attention, particularly a farm yard entrance along the Croppy road. There is a derelict building and one or two neglected entrances also along by the road to the school. There was a light scattering of litter along some of the approach roads on adjudication day. Whilst the standard is good, there is still scope for a lot of improvement on the approach roads and back areas. The carpark would benefit from a little attention before next year. The fencing needs a coat of paint and some of the surfacing needs to be attended to. Also don't forget to maintain all the planted areas and containers. There is a lot of work involved in this but the benefits are really worthwhile.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The standard this year is a little bit mixed. It is disappointing that there was a problem with the litter on adjudication day as this detracted from the overall impression one would have of Myshall. Hopefully it is a one-off incidence this year and that the good standards of previous years will return again next year. Good luck in your efforts in this regard. The standard on the approach roads is a little bit inconsistent and therefore one's overall impression is somewhat mixed on going into Myshall. It should not be difficult to regain the good standards of previous years, this can be greatly helped by setting out a development plan for the coming years because it is a good way of checking over achievements and strengths and weaknesses for the future. Please do not be discouraged by the slight loss in marks this year. They can easily be regained.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (13/08/98)

In spite of what looks like a slight falling-off in achievement this year, Myshall retains an exceptionally high place in the Competition. Marks were lost under Litter Control and Tidiness at the time of first adjudication, but these were partially restored on second adjudication day when a greater effort was favourably noted. It was good to see the statuary at the grotto in the process of cleaning. The type of new paving - which indeed is very neat and tidy - is a matter between the Community and the Local Authority, but this adjudicator is very strongly of the same opinion as that expressed on your entry form.