

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **OCALLAGHANS MILLS**
County : **CLARE**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 06-07-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	31
The Built Environment	40	30	30
Landscaping	40	29	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	18
Litter Control	40	30	30
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	29
General Impression	10	6	7
TOTAL MARK	300	210	213

O'Callaghans Mills, County Clare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your informative submission and the copy of the Local Development Plan. You are going about your endeavours in the proper way and the task now is for you to stick to your plan and get the necessary support for it. Many of the points raised in last year's report have had little support. Until you progress on a yearly basis and in a methodical way your standard in general will not rise.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The church is well presented again this year. The school had a lot of weed growth on adjudication day. In fact weed growth is a problem throughout the village and should be sprayed in May. The telephone kiosk is unacceptable and should be painted at least. You have an inordinate amount of rusty corrugated roofs that are keeping your marks down in this section. The biggest disappointment for this adjudicator, who attended the celebrations of the Water Wheel restoration in the 1980's is to find it in such a condition to-day. It has been allowed to deteriorate to a sad state. The wheel is no longer intact and the millrace is being used for burning rubbish. Even the plaque is hardly legible because of the dirt of the text. The handball court environs need improved presentation.

LANDSCAPING

You have worked hard on bringing some colour to the village through flower planting and the siting of tubs. Avoid a multicolour painting scheme - even on the tubs. The many open spaces in and around the village offer good potential for extra landscaping, but this will take energy from the community. Your efforts with landscaping should be emphasised by tree planting which will give great results and enhance with the passing of time. Some of your previous efforts are not being adequately maintained and you need to take stock for next year.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

You are fortunate in having a pleasant river and some attractive habitat areas - especially near the water mill. The many hedgerows and open spaces also offer potential for the promotion of wildlife. Perhaps a school project might consider listing the better known wildlife of the area. Long-term, you might aim for the erection of a display board that would illustrate the local wildlife.

LITTER CONTROL

There is no apparent problem throughout the village with litter and litter bins seem adequate in numbers. Don't rely totally on the

County Council to supply bins as these should be provided by the appropriate traders who sell wrapped commodities.

TIDINESS

Untidiness is resulting from unattended and overgrown open spaces, together with rusty sheds, dereliction, unoccupied houses and poorly presented farm gates. You have an unacceptable black spot where the abandoned bus and car are located.

RESIDENTIAL AREA

This is your strong area and many residents have worked hard to present their premises to a high standard. The housing estate at Doonaille is good and the entrance has been improved. Your signage is poor and the advance signage to the village is also inadequate.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Because of the layout of the village many side and back lanes are exposed to the visitor's eye. This is now an integral part of the competition and valuable marks are available for improved side and back areas. Road surface and other infrastructural works are beyond the resources of a voluntary committee and your role here is one of representation.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The village has potential for much improvement and your plan is now vital to making further progress. The problems outlined above are highlighted in the spirit of constructive suggestions, in the hope that you can over the next few years raise your standards generally.