

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **MOUNT TEMPLE**
County : **WESTMEATH**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 05-07-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	36
The Built Environment	40	28	27
Landscaping	40	30	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	15
Litter Control	40	21	21
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	19	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	22
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	194	189

Mountemples, County Westmeath

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for the work plan and for the detailed map of the area, both of which were interesting and useful. There is a huge amount of information and plans though all does seem attainable. There is obviously great support for the Tidy Towns Committee in the village which is half the battle. Do get advice on specialist areas e.g. tree maintenance and planting. There are also sure to be people in the community who have a good knowledge of these areas. .

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The built environment in Mountemples was generally well presented. The Golf course looked well as did the church and Kierans Food store which had a traditional type front and looked pleasant. The wall opposite the Castledaly road requires a coat of paint. The hall was also satisfactory and the parking area was clean and tidy. Egans looked well in its simple presentation, the Mount will require a coat of paint in the future. The school was well maintained and painted nicely. The pump looked well, though the white rose as a backdrop by itself would create a better visual appearance.

LANDSCAPING

The landscaping on the Athlone road looked well- do allow some natural vegetation to grow over the stone wall as this creates far nicer and natural appearance. The landscaped area in front of Egans was well kept though must require quite an amount of maintenance. The picnic area near the school will be nice when complete - perhaps a less formal approach should be considered due its rural location. Swathes of wildflowers, poppies and buttercups would look very well. When planning picnic areas, consider who the users will be as to the way they are planned. It is suggested that you do not put landscaped flower beds under the trees in the carpark of the golf club.. They would look very much out of place. It is also quite dark here. Consider what would normally grow here - research this and then use these plants instead.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The wildlife meadow area with the bi-lingual sign is commendable. This area which has been designated will, also have to be managed - seek advice on this if you are not too sure. It will need to be cut or grazed twice a year to ensure that it does not become choked with grass. The area could then be documented with the different species of plants - this could be carried out in conjunction with science class in the local school. It was good to notice through your plan that hedgecutting takes place outside nesting

time and that wildflowers are to be encouraged in the hedgerows.

LITTER CONTROL

Unfortunately, there were one or two pieces of litter spotted on the Moate and on the Athlone roads. The maintenance of litterbins was satisfactory. Take care that they are emptied regularly. The Litter Disposal Team is a welcome initiative and involving the school is commendable..

TIDINESS

The village was tidy on the day of adjudication. Some weedy areas on the path on the Athlone road needed attention , and uncollected cut grass here detracted from the hard work which had obviously been carried out in this area.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The houses in Mountemple were well presented and well painted. It was impressive to see the front areas/stones and pebbles well looked after and well levelled - well done.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

All the approach roads were neatly cut back but a problem did arise in the outer parts of the village when dead grass is not collected. This prevents good clean fresh growth and gives an untidy and dishevelled appearance. Roads throughout the village were also well kept.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Mountemple looked well on the day of adjudication. Attention to detail is required at this stage of the competition. Concentrate on litter, and tidiness. Marks can also be picked up under wildlife as the development here progresses. Well done on your plan - it shows thought and motivation.