

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **MULLINGAR**  
County : **WESTMEATH**  
Category : **F**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 19-07-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	28
The Built Environment	40	27	25
Landscaping	40	22	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	19	19
Tidiness	20	10	10
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	20
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>167</b>

## **Mullingar, County Westmeath**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Mullingar is a prosperous, rapidly developing town which could do much better in the Competition. There has been significant improvements in the presentation of the central part of the town in recent years, e.g. new shop-fronts, etc. and the standard of most of the housing estates is good. However there is considerable scope to improve other areas, e.g. litter control, maintenance of approach roads, the quality of finish of grassed area, shrubberies, etc. This report should be read in conjunction with last year's report. It would also be helpful if you would fill in the entry form in more detail as this would help give the adjudicator a clearer idea of your priorities and future direction.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The many new shop fronts and the generally restrained signage together with the absence of overhead wires has substantially upgraded the appearance of the Main Street. There also has been noticeable improvements since last year. The Greville Arms hotel has been painted and several shop/business premises frontages are being upgraded. The Market House which is the focal point of the town centre is being reconstructed. The public buildings, schools, churches, hospitals, etc. are in good condition, many of them have fine stone work, e.g. St. Loman's Hospital and the County buildings. However a lot can still be done to show business premises to their best advantage. There are several buildings in Patrick Street and also at the Dublin end of the town and indeed in other parts of the town that could be upgraded. More details are outlined in last years report. The derelict hall at the edge of the town on the Ballymahon road is unsightly. It is a pity that some use has not been found for the stone building at the harbour, the wire security fence is unsightly.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The quality of landscaping work throughout Mullingar is uneven. Good examples include town park which is a wonderful amenity for the town with its well maintained grass, trees, shrubberies and seating. The large pond in the Park is a fine feature although the large concrete performance area looks somewhat out of place and dominates the pool. Its concrete surfaces also attract graffiti although there appears to be some improvement since last year. The well planted roundabout at Mary Street is attractive, as are the well planted and colourful hanging baskets. The stone harbour is a noteworthy feature and the closely cut grass shows the area off to advantage. However considerable improvements can still be made. Litter despoils the harbour chamber and several derelict buildings are unsightly. The maintenance of the grassed areas along the Canal between the bridges are inconsistent with several well tended stretches and others more or

less neglected. The canal is still a much under utilised resource, hopefully the opening of the navigation will help increase public awareness of the canal and its amenity value. The trees along the Green road are a nice feature. More regular grass cutting would considerably enhance the Green and grassed area at the entrance to the Army Barracks. The three supermarkets have landscaped car parks. Quinnsworth stands out. St. Loman's grounds look well as do the grounds of Douwe Egberts. The landscaped parking area at the entrance to the industrial estate at the Greyhound Track is also well looked after. However several weedy shrubberies were noticeable throughout the town. The neatly trimmed hedge effectively camouflages the security fencing at Mullingar Hardware. The appearance of other industrial type premises would be improved if they followed this example.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

There are few towns that are as well endowed with natural and manmade features as Mullingar. The canal, the Brosna, the pond in the park, the lakes, Belvedere Demesne etc. The proposed development at Belvedere with its garden, its parkland and other attractions will provide a magnificent amenity for locals and visitors alike.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

The town has a substantial litter problem. The town centre is reasonably litter free and this probably reflects the significant contribution made to litter collection by the Local Authority. However significant amounts of litter are present in other parts of the town, several approach roads, e.g. Kilbeggan road, Harbour Street bridge area, Ballymahon road, in the vicinity of the Station Bridge and other areas. Better litter control must be one of your priorities. On-going anti-litter campaigns in schools etc. can help.

## **TIDINESS**

The town centre has a tidy appearance with the majority of buildings in good condition, new footpaths, absence of overhead wires, etc. Housing estates are also neat and tidy. However the uneven maintenance of approach roads, weedy margins and inadequate maintenance of flower beds are a negative aspect.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

As has already been mentioned the quality of presentation of most of the housing estates is one of the better features of Mullingar. Many of the housing estates have attractively and well maintained landscaped entrances and public areas. Hillside Drive, Glenview Heights stand out but there are others in all parts of the town. Many of the houses have well planted gardens and entrance areas but a substantial number of boundary walls need painting. Many residences have closely cut grass margins in front of their boundary walls but others need to weed gravelled margins. A number of houses in Harbour Street and St. Patrick's Terrace

require painting.

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

The standard of presentation of approach roads is patchy. The maturing trees are an attractive feature of the by-pass. The roads leading to the by-pass are in good condition with new footpaths, trees and well cut grass margins. However the appearance of the old Dublin road, the Kilbeggan road and the Ballymahon road is inconsistent. There are lengthy stretches of neatly cut grass but adjoining areas are often untended. Weeds and long grass are unsightly at the low concrete fencing on the Ballymahon road. The concrete fencing also needs repair. The landscaping at the forecourt of the Shell Garage on the Kilbeggan road looks well but grass margins and fencing on either side of the garage are unsatisfactory. Many road signs need cleaning and large advertising hoardings are unsightly in the town centre.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Mullingar is a town with many fine features. A stepped up effort, paying more attention to quality of finish, would pay dividends.