

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **MOUNTSHANNON**
County : **CLARE**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 30-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	44	43
The Built Environment	40	33	31
Landscaping	40	34	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	23
Litter Control	40	33	33
Tidiness	20	18	18
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	242	237

Mountshannon, County Clare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The tremendous commitment of Mountshannon Community Council is evident in every aspect of the village and its surrounds. Included in this commitment is the attention to planning and administration - the very detailed application form and excellent and imaginative maps showing where development is taking place together with documentation on the Aistear Iniscealtra project and the fund-raising activities of the Community Council were all very informative and helpful. Congratulations on Mountshannon being designated a blue flag areas in 1997. The list of public bodies and associations with whom you liaise is very impressive and the Community Council is to be congratulated on this truly partnership approach to development.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The village of Mountshannon has a great charm and in most instances new developments are maintaining this ambience and striving to fit in with the vernacular buildings already in situ. This is welcome and must continue to be encouraged for the future. Public buildings are well presented such as the two Churches and the Community Centre. Business premises such as the Village Inn, Cois na hAbhna, the Bridge Restaurant and Gardens and An Cupan teashop are all very attractive as indeed are other business premises in the village. The two vacant/ derelict sites in the village - the stone building with arched opening near the road junction in the centre of the village and the roofless building next to An Cupan teashop are looking quite well although the murals on the latter and the roof of the former are in need of some attention. There is potential for more attractive treatment in both these instances and in view of their central position in the village such treatment would be welcome. The commitment to the use of Irish in the village was noted. The Adjudicator visited the ambitious Aistear Iniscealtra site where work is in progress and was very impressed with the scope of vision and the appropriateness of this development so adjacent to the centre of Mountshannon. We look forward to seeing the completion of this heritage attraction in due course.

LANDSCAPING

The many landscaped areas in the village are a delight, especially the harbour area which is so appreciated by visitors. On the day of adjudication there were some members of the Committee maintaining the flower beds and grass in this area and it was good to see Tidy Towns in action ! It is just as important to maintain what has already been done as it is to move on to new projects and Mountshannon is a good example of this. The commitment by householders and businesses throughout the town to continue to provide flower tubs, hanging baskets and well maintained gardens is to commended. The planted areas on the approach roads are also very pleasant and well maintained.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

All the work undertaken on green and planted areas by the waterside and in the village contribute to this category. Perhaps some more berried bushes could be planted around the village to encourage birdlife and shrubs such as buddleia are known to attract butterflies. We have noted that there is work being undertaken on the provision of a Forest Amenity Park and nature trail and also that 12,000 salmon smolts were released into the Curragh River during the year

LITTER CONTROL

There was no litter to be seen in the village or at the harbour area and your monitoring and use of local school children in this regard is obviously successful. A small sprinkling of litter was to be seen on the Whitegate approach.

TIDINESS

The town was mostly neat and tidy throughout and weed control good.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The local residents continue to contribute to the overall Tidy Towns effort in the village in a very positive manner.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Mostly good, but signage, including speed signs, could be freshened up throughout the village.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Mountshannon is a village that is an excellent example in the Tidy Towns Competition. Since winning the National Award in 1981 the commitment and enthusiasm has been maintained and built upon. Good wishes in all your future endeavours.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (12/08/98)

Mountshannon was excellent in its presentation on the sunny August evening of second adjudication. It was good to note the work near completion on the derelict property beside An Cupan Caife. It is a really good idea to paint the window hoardings to represent the different nationalities that both live and visit the area, well done. Your Aistear Iniscealtra is an excellent initiative and developments to date look promising. We very much look forward to visiting next year to see the fruits of your work, good luck with your fund-raising here. Litter control was excellent on second adjudication also, well done. The approach roads, roadside verges and some outbuildings on the entrance to the village from the East Clare Way did not look good and stood in stark contrast with other aspects of the village. A few rusted corrugated roofs near the Post Office premises should be

improved as a matter of urgency and an adjacent house could be whitewashed or painted. An excellent overall presentation. The wire and post fencing to the site adjacent to the Top garage should be planted with hedgerow.