

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **MULLACHDUBH**
County : **DONEGAL**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 16-06-99

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	35
The Built Environment	40	34	33
Landscaping	40	27	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	35	34
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	24
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	218	213

Mullach Dubh, Co. Dhun na nGall

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Congratulations on the extent of the help which you are receiving from the local community, and for the useful contacts which you have made with the official bodies. Thank you for your very neat and easily read map; next year, please mark on it all sites where work has been completed over the previous twelve months. This adjudicator had not been in north-west Donegal for many years, and it was a real pleasure to see how well Mullach Dubh is kept. It is an even greater pleasure to see that traditional forms of building are being respected, and that the neighbourhood is not becoming suburbanised. Do not be disappointed by the comparatively slow increase in marks - it is not possible to give an increase on projects which have not been completed; however, Mullach Dubh is already in the upper marking bracket for the county, which is most unusual for an entry in its second year.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Community Centre project is impressive. The plain nature of the pubs and shop is most attractive. Handpainting and signpainting is always to be encouraged, and plastic or mass produced signs, and PVC window frames in older buildings, discouraged. There is still a problem with a vacant site and some structures in poor repair. Thatching was seen in progress on adjudication day and very favourably noted indeed. The two memorials are well cared for and make an interesting focal point in a village which does not have a conventional centre.

LANDSCAPING

The flowerbed at the old School was looking exceptionally well on adjudication day. A number of floral decorations throughout the neighbourhood, especially in private gardens, added colour and charm. A tree-planting programme should be an essential part of your plans - there are suggestions in the Tidy Towns booklet, but there is nothing better than local advice as to which species will flourish best in your soil and climate.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

It would be good to learn more of your plans to make the environment hospitable to wild life. 'An traonach' was heard on adjudication day - a welcome sound!

LITTER CONTROL

Your efforts are proving very successful. Control in Mullagh Dubh is well above the national average.

TIDINESS

There was a general absence of untidy entrances, kerbside weed, obtrusive signage, graffiti and flyposting. The removal of abandoned cars is an important task. Verges are trimly mown.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The number of well maintained pitched-roofed gabled houses, and some newer houses following this admirable tradition, is a big advantage. The more modern bungalow type houses, which perhaps do not fit quite so well into the landscape, were nevertheless very well tended. Thatched houses are especially appropriate and it is good to see the craft kept alive. Boundaries between properties in stone or wood are excellent - post-and-wire fencing should be avoided as it deteriorates rapidly, and it is difficult to keep free of weeds.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The main road is well surfaced. The lengthy new pavement was favourable noted, and especially the new walls - it is assumed that when completed they will be faced in stone to match the excellent wall at the old school.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A very fine effort resulting in a specially attractive neighbourhood. Best wishes for the many initiatives which are under way.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (12/08/99)

It was most encouraging to see further improvements to Mullach Dubh. The image most enjoyed is of stone walls, grass verges, montbretia and plain buildings with slated / thatched roofs and vertically proportioned windows. Consideration might be given to drystone walling in places rather than concrete blockwork faced with stone, particularly in place of timber fencing. Commendably litter was not a problem but weedy kerbsides and forecourts in places did detract somewhat from the overall presentation. The cascading hydrangeas and roses were admired. You should submit a three - five year work programme next year.