

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **MULLINALAGHTA**
County : **LONGFORD**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 06-07-1999

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 1999 | Mark Awarded 1998 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 22 | -- |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 19 | -- |
| Landscaping | 40 | 19 | -- |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 13 | -- |
| Litter Control | 40 | 22 | -- |
| Tidiness | 20 | 8 | -- |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 15 | -- |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 16 | -- |
| General Impression | 10 | 5 | -- |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 139 | -- |

Mullinalaghta, County Longford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Welcome back to the competition after a period of a year's absence. Thank you for the application short plan and map. Your short plan outlines a number of viable projects which the judges look forward to seeing being instigated over the next number of years.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

These were varied in the appearance. The school will require repainting soon, however the Anglers Rest had been repainted in the front and sported some nice window boxes. The graveyard looked well though the derelict building beside it is an eyesore. Kehoes would benefit from some floral display to brighten up the brown façade. St. Columbas Church was neat and tidy, though rusty gates beside its entrance detracted from it. The community centre was fine though had rusty gates. In fact gates, needing attention were a feature of the village. There was however a fine wheel gate close to the graveyard which was much admired. The cap wall at Pairc Naomh Columba will need repainting soon though the rest of the building and fences looked well.

LANDSCAPING

Planting does not seem to be well maintained throughout the village. It is possibly because the village is very long and looking after plants is time consuming. The plants opposite the RC Church did not look in a happy state. These should possibly be replaced with small shrubs or creeper. Tubs looked well and the new trees opposite the graveyard are to be commended. The intention is presumably for these to replace the older mature trees as time goes on. Do consider also planting new trees in the more open spaces as well. The landscaping beside the school is very fine particularly the mix of native and other species.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

It was good to see that a feasibility study has been carried out on Derrycassin wood. It is a very pleasant spot. It is already an amenity area – a study of the various habitats that it offers would make an interesting project. Short walks identifying different species would be interesting to develop. These could then be marketed to people in nearby Granard and even Longford as a place to visit on a Sunday afternoon. Be aware that management practices will also have to be considered and services/ facilities such as litterbins provided for people.

LITTER CONTROL

A number of barrel litterbins were being used. The colour purple is presumably the local football team colours. Litter was evident in the village on the day of judging, however there were a few pieces at Derrycassin wood. A summer student was seen with gloves and bag walking along the village during the judging.

TIDINESS

Long grass and rusty gates detracted from the overall tidiness of the village. It was noted that the village is very long, however, one-foot margins cut along the road would bring the village together.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The residences were generally well presented. A lovely house with magnificent blooms was seen at the Granard end of the village. Other residences did vary in presentation. There were nice new trees at a fine white bungalow in the centre of the village which will add to that area as they grow.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The road margins had not been cut recently and in some places there was quite long grass. The ferns in the ditches, the honeysuckle and roses were very pleasant. Be sure to keep road signs clean and visible at all times.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Mullinalaghta is a really rural village. The villagers should capitalise on this by minimising the use of formal landscaping beds and barrels and using native species which are seen in the hedgerows and fields. A difficult village to keep tidy and well presented due to its length. Well done on your work in the past year.