

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 04-06-99

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	44	44
The Built Environment	40	33	33
Landscaping	40	35	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	24
Litter Control	40	33	33
Tidiness	20	18	18
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	27
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	244	242

Mountshannon, County Clare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Mountshannon is welcome to the 1999 Tidy Towns Competition. The village is developing at a fast pace and there have been major changes since last year's adjudication. Not all of the development has been brought to a final stage of completion in time for the first round of adjudication, but it is anticipated that a high standard will be achieved for all developments. In particular the Aistear Iniscealtra Project has not reached a stage of completion to enable it to be considered for the heritage award. Similarly the Wood Park Forest amenity park had no signage or other visual information regarding the amenity and likewise cannot be considered for the Heritage Award. There is no doubt that when both projects are brought to their final stage of completion, they can then be considered for this award. Congratulations on the initiative taken in the conception, design and implementation of both projects. All involved are to be congratulated. Your plan for the Key Stone of the arch to the proposed Aistear project is commendable. It is always appropriate to acknowledge the input to community projects by individuals. Perhaps these projects will be finished on time for second adjudication.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Most buildings were presented to a high standard. Development is on-going in Mountshannon and no doubt all will be finished to the standard we have come to expect from your lovely village. Your idea to promote the use of natural products in the village, e.g. houses, businesses, hotel and school is excellent.

LANDSCAPING

All the permanent shrubs and young and semi-mature and mature trees are making a significant visual impact on the village. Newly landscaped areas are being well maintained and in fact some were being tended during adjudication. The flower tubs in which the Fáilte sign has been erected at the Scarriff end of the village have seen better days and perhaps could be refurbished or replaced. Some of the flower containers had been sparsely planted during first adjudication or perhaps they have just not yet had time to bloom. However this is not as important as your fine displays of year round shrubs and trees. The landscaped green area at the Portumna end of the town is a beautiful introduction to Mountshannon. The design concept for the flowerbed on the main street (a combination of a cross and an anchor was much admired).

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Do send in details of your wildlife programme when this is available. We note from your application that it is still in the planning stage. You have also suggested that Bushy Island be considered for the wildlife award and have described it as the untouched home of wildlife, flora and fauna. To qualify for an award you need to have made progress in increasing the level of awareness of wildlife throughout the community and you have not supplied any information in this respect, so at this stage the island will not be considered for the wildlife award, but as already mentioned, we look forward to further details from you.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control throughout the village and in the harbour area and on approach roads is really good, well done. It is good to know that you co-operate with Clare County Council for on-going monitoring of illegal dumping in woodland areas and that the entire community from senior citizens to school children to shopkeepers co-operate in the control of litter. Do send us in more details of your litter control tactics. There appear to be sufficient litter bins along the main street of the village but these become more sparse on the way down to the harbour and in the outlying sections of the village.

TIDINESS

There are a number of problems under this heading, perhaps the most serious of which is the many untidy underdeveloped sites along the road marking the entrance to the village from the East Clare Way, this is probably your weakest area in terms of the competition. An abandoned car was spotted in a field on the road down to the harbour from the road junction with the main street. A lot of building materials were noted at various points around the village. However it is anticipated that all of this will be promptly removed when construction work has ceased. Some outhouses need a little work.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Residential areas are presented to their usual high standard. The numerous new residential developments under construction have been noted and no doubt their design and maintenance will complement the village and make an important contribution to village life.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

As mentioned above the approach road from the East Clare Way is poorly presented in many respects. A number of road signs around the village could be refurbished and perhaps one or two replaced. Street furniture is reasonably well presented in general, perhaps more litter bins could be located at the outer limits of the village on the roads down to

the harbour. The harbour area was beautifully presented in all respects.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A visit to Mountshannon is always wonderful, whether for work or leisure. This adjudicator looks forward to many repeat visits.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (07/08/99)

The lakeside village of Mountshannon looked as magnificent as ever on an August second adjudication day. Landscaped areas throughout the village looked extremely lush with their neatly trimmed grass verges. That in particular to the Church of Ireland side of the village being particularly admired. The stone church looked well and its gates were quite fresh and the small national school sported some magnificent grounds as ever. The Bridge was quite fresh and although the Top garage was fine the single-storey tin shed adjacent looked quite rusty. It is all the more obvious due to the fact that it is sunk below road level. As one passes along the main street of the village, magnificent glimpses to the lakeside below are apparent. There are quite a number of houses under construction at the moment and this adjudicator can only hope that they will be sympathetic to the character of the village. Cupán Cafè looked very fresh and well maintained as indeed did Cois na hAbhainn. The curved canopies to the Village Inn should be removed and replaced with more traditional fabric awnings. The adjacent magnificent stone building looks quite neglected and should be restored to its former glory. Although the centre of the village was virtually litter free the road leading down to the harbour had quite a few outbreaks. Aistear Iniscealtra should be most interesting when complete.