

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **MYSHALL**
County : **CARLOW**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 23-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	37
The Built Environment	40	29	29
Landscaping	40	33	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	23
Litter Control	40	26	25
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	27
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	224	220

Myshall, County Carlow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your notes and detailed map of the village submitted with your application form. I note from last year's report that you submitted a comprehensive plan and you have indicated this year, in your notes, that you have begun to implement some of the smaller measures contained in this. I am delighted to see that you work closely with the local authority which has very valuable assistance and guidance to give you. Your village has great scope to do well in this competition in the years ahead. It is wonderful to see the very good community spirit which appears to prevail in Myshall.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

There is great effort throughout in presenting the built environment to its best. The Church of Ireland, which is a beautiful building, is well maintained throughout and its grounds are immaculate. The other public buildings, including the church, school and community centre are all maintained in good condition. The Garda Station needs painting, as do the boundary walls of the health centre. The grotto, again, is presented well. The business properties are well presented. Plastic signage and advertising hoardings need to be removed and you should consider the use of bi-lingual signage where appropriate, on any new signs.

LANDSCAPING

The trees, shrubs and plants throughout the village are being well maintained and are maturing nicely. Some of the grass needs to be cut in and around Tobar Bhride and the pond area. The area around the pond does need to be kept neat and tidy. More vigilance is also needed around the waterfall area. The tree and shrub planting in the Millennium Park is to be commended. Work is still ongoing here and when this is completed it should look very well indeed. Perhaps the banks on both sides of the stream could be cleaned up. The Millennium Park is a wonderful asset for the community and well done to all concerned in its development.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The water pond is an ideal area to promote the wildlife habitats existing in that area. As a community you have an important role to play in protecting and increasing the appreciation of nature and wildlife in your community. Another area to consider would be the graveyard and church grounds. Identifying the wildlife in the church ground

and pond areas would be a good start. You will be surprised at the amount of species which abound in those areas. It could prove very enjoyable for children and the community at large to discover the abundance of wildlife habitat in their village area.

LITTER CONTROL

Continuing vigilance is necessary in the control of litter throughout the village. I note that you are working with the Carlow County Council in producing a litter management plan and this is most welcome. You have also started an Environmental Awareness Group of young people who clean up litter. All these initiatives will yield results and will help the control of litter on an ongoing basis. There was some litter at the wall coming down from the school and also on the road by the Church of Ireland. Small pieces were also to be seen in the Community car park and at Tobar Bhríde. The area at the well and the pond needs constant monitoring.

TIDINESS

The control of weed growth at kerbs, at the base of buildings and walls needs constant monitoring. Encourage property owners to control this on a co-ordinated basis. Areas which need attention are the kerbs opposite the grotto, at the school and at the base of some walls in the village.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The housing estate is presented very well and the open spaces are neat and tidy. However, pay attention to weeding at the kerbs. The residents made a great effort to have their gardens looking well. Well done to all concerned.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The provision of new footpaths is welcome. They are central to the overall presentation of your village. The car park at the Community Centre is well maintained but pay attention to some weeds. The name signs are in good condition, but the 30mph poles and signs need to be cleaned and painted. The approach roads are maintained well throughout.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

You are making great efforts and continue to present your village in the best possible light. As stated in last year's report you are going in the right direction. Continue to focus and work through the plan. You have great potential to do well in this competition in the years ahead. Well done to your committee and to the local community for supporting

your great efforts in having Myshall presented in the best possible light.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (01/08/00)

Despite the generally high standard much greater attention to detail is required in order to gain a substantial increase of marks. Despite several worthwhile improvements to the villagescape negative elements were heaps of sand and gravel, some untidy yards and gateways, and weedy wall bases and kerbsides in places. Tattered flyposting on a pole in the village centre is inexcusable! On the positive side, numerous buildings had appeared to have been recently freshened up, the grassed areas (including Tobar Bhríde) had been well mown and planted areas were prolific. Stone buildings, both old and new were especially admired. The community centre area would benefit from some tree planting along by the retaining wall between the road and carpark. The formation of the Millennium Committee was clearly an effective initiative .