

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **O'CALLAGHANS MILLS**  
County : **CLARE**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 11-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	--
The Built Environment	40	30	--
Landscaping	40	30	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	--
Litter Control	40	30	--
Tidiness	20	15	--
Residential Areas	30	23	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	--
General Impression	10	6	--
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>--</b>

## **O'Callaghan's Mills, Clare**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for returning completed entry form and for re-entering the competition. You have outlined your problems well and seem conscious of your problems. Many of your problems are long standing and many are outside the scope of a voluntary committee. Some of your development work of previous years is now in need of renewal and upgrading.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The weed growth on the school yard seems a recurring problem and needs to be sprayed in May. The church looked well again this year. You have an inordinate amount of dereliction which will need to be tackled on an individual and collective basis. Some valuable unoccupied houses are in a poor state and need to be improved. The Post Office was well presented and an attractive piece of landscaping embellishes the water pump at this site. There are many old attractive buildings throughout the village with links to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. These should be preserved and highlighted. No progress on the water mill which continues to deteriorate. It is good to witness some new house building which will improve the villages appearance. Owners should be encouraged to landscape well after building.

### **LANDSCAPING**

You have a great task in this category, as much of previous years efforts are now in need of renewal. The tree planting of previous years is continuing to enhance the village but many of the landscaped areas need attention. It is acknowledged that the village is very widespread and requires a lot of attention relevant to its population. Your challenge is to get the residents to take care of their own area and reduce the workload on small numbers of enthusiasts.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The river offers great potential for the promotion of wildlife. Also the many open spaces and hedges in abundance throughout the village. You should contact a wildlife specialist who would guide you in this respect. Don't give up on the school project.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

You do not seem to have a serious problem with litter and the village looked clean on adjudication day. However, the litter bin at the community hall was overflowing on a Tuesday adjudication.

## **TIDINESS**

Your problems here relate to a plethora of badly kept buildings, rusty corrugated roofs, untidy open spaces and dereliction. You will only solve this problem over a period of sustained effort with co-operation from the owners.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The small housing estate was fairly well presented, with one or more houses needing painting and improved presentation. There are some very good individual efforts in evidence throughout the village and many houses have well landscaped gardens.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

Signage in general is poorly kept and a speed limit sign opposite The Mills Tavern is facing the ditch and cannot be seen. You have a great deal of side and back streets to look after. Also many back gardens and side entrances are visible because of the layout of the village. Approach roads have been receiving attention to grass cutting, but in general approach roads are only fair. You should consider an attractive display of flowers with a fáilte sign at the principal entrances.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

You have a fine traditional village with many attractive features. You need to highlight these and tackle the dereliction problem. You need greater commitment and involvement from the community and try and work towards a three year plan. Don't tackle new landscape project unless you have energy to maintain. Good luck in your endeavours.