

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **MITCHELSTOWN**  
County : **CORK**  
Category : **D**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 26-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	25
The Built Environment	40	25	25
Landscaping	40	25	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	13
Litter Control	40	23	22
Tidiness	20	12	11
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	24
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>172</b>

## **Mitchelstown, County Cork**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

The Committee should draft a 3/5 year plan for the town and use it as a checklist at the end of each year. Keep up your co-operation with the local Authority and the schools as these are vital links. The support of other agencies such as FÁS can be of great benefit as has been shown in many other towns and villages throughout the Country. Your diligence in relation to litter and your participation in the various anti-litter competitions is commended. Keep up a strong 'Awareness Campaign'. Try to get school/student involvement in the Wildlife and Natural Amenity Category.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

A consistent effort appears to be made in this category with most commercial buildings maintaining their traditional shop fronts. The public houses should try to substitute plastic drink company signs with more traditional ones. The King's Square and Kingston College area is a quite unique aspect to Mitchelstown as it has a very distinct and charming ambience. Some points from last years report are still relevant namely the flags on the Bank of Ireland need to be renewed, the railings on the wall of the Library are rusty and the Mitchelstown mart walls, gates and sign would improve with painting. Some frontages that were particularly good were O'Callaghan's again, the Credit Union building, Doody's Pharmacy and Murphy's Pharmacy. Both the Catholic Church and Church of Ireland are good strong buildings. The graveyard area at St.Fanahan's (opposite the R.C. Church) may need attention. The adjudicator fully supports your plans for Demesne wall and particularly the restoration of the old Corn Mill, which is a fine old building.

### **LANDSCAPING**

As already stated the King's Square and Kingston College area is beautiful. The black fountain here looks much better this year. It would be great if this fountain could be repaired, this may not be feasible, however, given its age. There is a beautiful area of grass and planting on the opposite side of the road to 'Ballinwillin Close' on the Dublin/ Limerick road; this is beautifully kept. The integration of trees on the streets, particularly on Georges Street and Cork Street 'softens' the urban setting. The Park benches near the Primary School look well, but the graffiti should be removed. The 'John Mandeville' statue at New Market Square is a key feature. The grounds of the Presentation Convent and particularly the garden area at the front of the Dairy Gold Building in the Fermoy road

impressed the Adjudicator. I note also your plans in relation to hanging baskets, floral displays and raised beds.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

This is an area as mentioned in last year's report that your Committee may need to direct your attentions. An 'Environmental Programme' could be developed. Do not be overwhelmed by this. You should perhaps make it a subject of one of your environmental school projects that you are involved with. There is some excellent advice in the 'Tidy Towns Handbook' – sheet 6 'Wildlife and Natural Amenities'

## **LITTER CONTROL**

This is an area where your Committee have really worked hard. The formation of a dedicated sub-committee was a good idea and you must be complimented on the measures and initiatives you have taken. The school's Competition, entering into anti-litter competitions, trying to enforce the 1997 Litter Act and providing more litter bins is very worthwhile. The Committee have a difficult task with so much passing traffic coming through Mitchelstown. There were really only two areas where litter was a problem. This was on the enclosed pathway towards the R.C. Church and along the Argalin road. Keep up your fantastic efforts on this front as it is most definitely showing results.

## **TIDINESS**

Well done to those responsible for cleaning up around the Black Fountain at King's Square. Attention would need to be given to weed growth on top of walls as it is so easily visible, e.g. the wall near the town on the left side as you exit on the Dublin/ Limerick route, and on the Dairy Gold Co-op wall on the Limerick road. The recycling facilities are in good location and are still well sign posted from the main street

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

There is a lot of civic pride in private houses in Mitchelstown, the main areas of note were Kingston College area, James Street, King Street, George's Street, Mulberry Crest and 'Ballinwillin Close'. The new estate name sign is admired here also. The houses on the Argalin Road are also very good. The Common areas of 'Ballinwillin Close' were very good and all houses in the town maintained well groomed hedges, lawns and shrubs.

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

The new picturesque name signs for Mitchelstown are very eye-catching and distinctive; the signs are colourful and

give a good first impression to the visitor. These combined with the new street name signs, some of which are erected, will help to give streets an identity. The new Market Square area continues to look impressive, with well lined parking spaces including dedicated disabled parking. This is very much a focal point of the town. Traffic is very much a problem for Michelstown. I note and fully agree with your comments in relation to traffic flow, haphazard parking and promoting off street parking. These areas need to be addressed. Grass margins would need attention on the Kildorey, Fermoy, Dublin and Clonmel roads. The hedging would need to be cut on the Limerick road, and the speed limit signs repainted on the Limerick and Araglin Road. I fully support your plans to tackle the cleaning and painting of traffic signs and your consideration of creating green acres on four main approach roads.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Michelstown is a town of many facets, the busy main street area and the quieter Kingston College area. There is quite a lot of civic pride on display particularly in residential housing where all forms of housing are making efforts. Keep up your diligent work on litter. A.R.O.M.A. Committee deserve the full backing of the Community.