

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **MULLINGAR**
County : **WESTMEATH**
Category : **F**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 14-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	29
The Built Environment	40	30	28
Landscaping	40	26	23
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	15
Litter Control	40	26	22
Tidiness	20	13	11
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	20
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	200	177

Mullingar, County Westmeath

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Mullingar is welcome to the first Tidy Towns Competition of the third millennium. Your application is impressive and makes for fascinating reading. We congratulate you in particular on your litter management plan and on actions taken in respect of wildlife. It is good to note that there is a series of street perspectives for the main streets of the town organised by Westmeath County Council which will offer guidelines to business people in the town centre. The town is growing at a very fast pace and presents a challenge to all responsible for the environment to ensure that developments are appropriate and sensitive and that amenity development keeps pace with the growing population. There are excellent views of the town from both the Dublin and Delvin approach roads.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The memorial on the area in front of the Irish Nationwide in Austin Friars Street to commemorate the Augustinian monastery and the pilgrims is both visually pleasing and, of course, celebrates Mullingar's historic past and heritage. Church Avenue is important in the overall townscape and all its buildings should be presented to a high standard, some were in need of attention on the day of adjudication. The Market House and its general circulation area is an appropriate development in the core of the town. The County Council Offices property looks exceptionally well and flower displays here were much admired. There are some excellent examples of railway architecture in Mullingar. The number of plastic neon shopfront signs is reducing every year. There are still, of course, some remaining in situ, keep up the encouragement to have these replaced with good quality signage. The recently refurbished George Evans Lounge Bar looks particularly well marking the entrance to the town. Others include the Newbury Hotel, the Old Stand, O'Callahans, Cons. The box neon Pepsi and Seven Up signs at the Novelty shop should be removed as a matter of priority and the shopfront itself refurbished. A good overall presentation.

LANDSCAPING

Well done on landscaping achieved to date in addition to that planned for the coming year. The list of species you have included are appropriate and will be a valuable heritage for future generations. Some of the outer traffic islands could feature container plants. The Rustic Oil premises on the Athlone road should be encouraged to plant their wire and post fencing with climbing plants and the Drummond Seeds premises which is quite extensive could have a climbing plant

fixed to the building and allowed to clamber over the low roof. Alternatively the roof itself could be treated. Some consideration might be given to replacing the Cordyline which features on the roundabout in the town centre with a native species or with a sculpture. The inner garden at the railway station is beautiful. The small traffic island marking the entrance to the railway station could be refurbished. Young trees are establishing themselves well along the green verge on Patrick Street. Semi mature and mature trees together with neatly trimmed grass verges on the Longford entrance to the town centre are excellent.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Congratulations on the County Council plan for a wildlife protected area at Grange. Although no finance is available to carry out the work immediately, it is good to note that a plan is in place and action will be taken as finance becomes available. Well done also on work completed in the environs of the canal. This does improve the appearance of this approach road to the town. Well done also on the 'Naomh Loman' GAA grounds. These are one of the best in the country seen by this adjudicator.

LITTER CONTROL

Well done on your litter management strategy, the details of this made impressive reading and it is good to note that it includes educational activities in addition to regular clean-ups. The introduction of a voluntary code of conduct is very much admired and will surely achieve its goal of encouraging the business community to take responsibility for litter resulting from their business. Litter control was very good throughout the town. Weak spots included an area at the bridge on Millmount road.

TIDINESS

Weed growth along the kerbs of the footpaths should be eliminated altogether (i.e. out the Delvin road). The tattered billboard advertisement hoarding at the railway bridge marking the entrance to the town from the Tullamore road should be removed altogether. The mural to the undeveloped site beside the Post Office is an imaginative temporary solution to this problem.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Some of the red bricked terraced houses in Dublin Street should have their roadside facades cleaned, however avoid the treatment such as that featuring on Callans Hairstylists. A long grey boundary wall on which the 'Auburn Village' sign is placed should be cleaned or painted. The town is a successful mix of single, two and three storey residential properties. Some Victorian in style and, of course, the more

modern semi-detached types of dwelling. Terraced houses lining both sides of the road on the entrance to the town from the Tullamore road are charming. The 'Willow Brook' residential development is presented to a very high standard as is 'Oak Lawns'. No doubt their neighbours, the 'Ardleigh' and the 'Moorings' will be presented to an equally high standard upon completion. Perhaps a co-ordinated colour scheme might be considered for the 'Valley Cottages' residential properties together with those in Parnell Terrace. Terraced houses along Harbour Street might also consider a co-ordinated colour scheme.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Your programme of footpath construction and the upgrading of roads is commendable, this enhances the fabric of the town. It is good to note the new lampstandards and the plan over the next three to four years of replacing all unsightly lampstandards with new ones. The bridge at the top of the Delvin road (Careys bridge?) looks wonderful. The wirescape in Mary Street should be given priority when ducting takes place as it spoils the excellent presentation of the Cathedral. A number of signposts in the town need to be straightened.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The overall impression of Mullingar is one of a very busy town where concern and respect for the environment get priority.