

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 05-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	47	44
The Built Environment	40	33	33
Landscaping	40	37	35
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	28
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	249	244

Mountshannon, County Clare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for the bound entry form, maps and comprehensive submission on work undertaken. The community spirit in Mountshannon is very obvious and the considerable amount of work undertaken in the last few years, culminating in the opening of both the Aistear Iniscealtra Park and the Woodpark Forest Park earlier this year is evidence of the commitment and ability of the Committee to get things done. Mountshannon was visited on a sunny day when people picniced at the quay side amenity area, cruisers came and went at the harbour to Lough Derg and children swam at the beach amenity area. You can certainly be well pleased in regard to your achievements to date.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

All the main buildings in the village were well presented including the Churches and Hotel. Business premises such as B & Bs, Filling Stations, Pubs, Restaurants and Shops also contribute to the good appearance and ambience of Mountshannon. On the Scarriff approach, the Bridge pub is well decorated with a nice garden area and rose beds adjoining but the plastic flowers should be removed from the front of the building. There is still the derelict building next to An Cupan Te and the old Garage with petrol pumps as the top of the village for which some long term planning should be undertaken. Long term planning should also be looked at for the stone Market house at the turn down to the Harbour. Mountshannon was the only place visited this year where new Eircom boxes were not installed. This should be done and preferably in brown or green so as to fit in with the village. Stone walls throughout the village and approaches are good but ivy should not be allowed to take hold. At the Harbour the toilet block with wheelchair access was noted. On the East Clare Way road the old Hall was well painted and landscaped and the Eircom Depot neat and tidy.

LANDSCAPING

The main feature in this category, as mentioned above, is the Aistear Iniscealtra Park in the centre of the village. Thank you for the accompanying documentation advising that the Park has a spiritual theme, reflecting the long tradition of spirituality in the area, particularly exemplified by the monastic remains on Holy Island nearby. This Park has taken fourteen years to come to fruition and depicts the seven periods of man – Hunter Gatherer, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, The Arrival of Christianity and Mediaeval. The Park also includes an outdoor exhibition/performance

area, recreation area, direct pedestrian/wheelchair link between the Quay area and Mountshannon village. Your idea of organising a meitheal with the local community last April to undertake the planting of some 3,500 plants was imaginative and inclusive. On the day of adjudication the Park was looking splendid and the many varieties of plants admired. However, some attention still needs to be given to the area leading down to the harbour and signage here to lead people up to the village through the Park would be good. This Park and all the other planted areas in Mountshannon will need considerable maintenance in the years ahead and no doubt the Community Council have provided for this in their plans. At the Harbour the planting here is of a more permanent nature with shrubs and year round foliage and was looking well as indeed was other planting throughout the village and on the approach roads. On the Scarriff approach, wooden tubs would need to be refurbished or replaced.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The second major project undertaken by the Mountshannon Community Council in conjunction with Coillte, Clare County Council and FAS was the Woodpark Forest Park which was opened on the 28th May, 2000. This developed the forest into a natural woodland area with designated walks such as the Meeting of the Waters Walk; The Old Oak Walk; The Cow Walk and the Long Walk. Other areas of interest shown are Doyle's Garden, Clarke's Wood and the Site of Woodpark House. The forest may be entered in two places – one from a carpark on the right hand side on the Scarriff road – this is for walkers only. The other entrance is from a road to the right after the R.C. Church on the Scarriff exit from Mountshannon (there was no sign in place here on the day of adjudication). One may drive in at this entrance to a car park. Well done on your second major achievement – make sure the word goes out that this new natural/ wildlife amenity is in place.

LITTER CONTROL

There were no litter bins in evidence on the day of adjudication but there was also very little litter except for a sprinkling on the way down to the harbour. We note from your entry form that you use wheelie bins, have a street sweep and that you have a litter awareness day and a cleanup day. The strategy seems to be working but as you know, constant vigilance is necessary.

TIDINESS

The village presents a very tidy aspect overall with kerbs and wall bases weed free. On the Scarriff approach, the area at the back of the TOP filling station could have been tidier and there is a very untidy area, past the speed signs,

but still relevant to the village on the East Clare Way. This appears to be a farmers premises/yard and we would suggest that you contact Teagasc to see if they could assist you in this matter.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Private houses in the village and on the approach roads are contributing fully to the tidy towns effort. It was noted that two new houses are being built and no doubt you will encourage these new residents to assist you in your endeavours.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The sign stating that Mountshannon won the National Tidy Towns Competition in 1981 could have been cleaner but overall signage was good throughout except again on the East Clare Way road where speed signs needed straightening and painting. On the Portumna approach building work and road works were in progress and road verges here were rather rough. However, no doubt when the work is completed this will be rectified immediately.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Mountshannon is the epitome of what Tidy Towns is about. A dedicated Committee, motivating the community and working with other Agencies in order to bring their aspirations into being in order to enhance the place where they live for themselves and others. Congratulations on your achievements to date.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (06/08/00)

Mountshannon looked particularly well on the day of second adjudication also. The new heritage park is a wonderful achievement and is a strong contender for the Heritage Award. However in the opinion of the second adjudicator, it does not have full disabled access as advertised, some weeding is also necessary. The signpost for the forest is somewhat misleading as the entrance is within one mile of the village, yet the signpost reads ten kilometres. Some derelict sheds and outhouses are in need of attention and the water pump outside of 'Noels Restaurant' could be refurbished. An additional litter bin might be considered for the crossroads outside the Garda Station. Congratulations on a fine presentation.