

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 15-07-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	48	47
The Built Environment	40	34	33
Landscaping	40	37	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	24
Litter Control	40	36	33
Tidiness	20	18	18
Residential Areas	30	22	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	256	249

Mountshannon, Co. Clare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your well filled in Entry Form and for the Mountshannon Community Council Development Plan for 2001 - 2006. This is a most informative document and all concerned are to be congratulated. The implementation of all these plans, following on the outstanding work that has already been done over the years will enhance the village and its surroundings even further. This plan demonstrates an excellent awareness of the locality and a very strong sense of pride in past and present achievements. This awareness will doubtless contribute to the retaining of the integrity of the village. It must be stated that the benefits of many long-term actions carried out many years ago are now quite mature and have definitely demonstrated that a defined approach is a successful approach.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Mountshannon creates a very good impression of care and sensitivity. Except for a very few items as were mentioned last year, the derelict building next to An Cupan Te and the old Garage, all buildings are well cared for and maintained. Churches, Hotel, and business premises all add to the ambience of Mountshannon. A terrace of new houses integrates extremely well with the existing patterns of the village and this is an unusual course to take in current times where most people develop isolated housing structures. The committee must be complimented on the village / streetscape approach that reinforces the urban containment and extends the traditional format of the village street. Aistear Iniscealtra Park is a very fine addition to the charm of the village. It has been very well thought out and contains interesting features which seem to go far beyond the usual public park. The winter characteristics of this park are also successful and the efforts made in Mountshannon demonstrate that the approach to the village is one that relates to all the seasons. Congratulations.

LANDSCAPING

Landscaping is of a very high standard and this applies particularly to Aistear Iniscealtra Park. This is a delightful and interesting open space

and is a wonderful addition to this lovely town. Annual plantings, boxes and baskets are most successful. Where ever possible more permanent plantings should be used. The harbour area looked very well and if there were an opportunity it would be the place where any visitor would want to dock for a week or so.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Mountshannon is a rural community so its environment encourages wild life.

Woodpark Forest Park was an interesting walk and a wonderful facility to nurture. What was interesting was the growth of the young oaks in the woodland as well as the couple of environmental sculptures. This is a natural /wildlife amenity and is a great addition to the region. Again, the consideration by the residents of the village towards wildlife is also clearly demonstrated at the harbour area where the reeds in the shallow water sand banks are allowed to grow and define the shallow waters for boaters. Wildlife would seem to be an integrated approach to living in Mountshannon.

LITTER CONTROL

There was no litter in evidence on the day of adjudication. Your strategy of litter awareness appears to be most successful and your constant vigilance is paying off.

TIDINESS

The village presents a very tidy aspect overall though there are still a few areas, as mentioned in last year's report, which still need attention. Regular reminders to those involved will have to continue. There are weeds growing in the chimney post of some older terraced housing and these demonstrate that perhaps the interior use is changing or that maybe there are early signs of dereliction.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Residential areas are very pleasant and well tended, and new housing, so far seems most successful because of its integration and continuity with the existing traditional village pattern

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Except for a few areas where building work is in progress, all roads and streets were very

satisfactory. Signage could be attended to particularly at entrance from Whitegate and those signs, which are crooked, should be straightened. The entrance area from Whitegate is particularly pleasant and is a very good example of long term planning.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Mountshannon is a charming and delightful village and the efforts of previous years are now coming to fruition and clearly demonstrates what a good committee, together with forward planning can achieve. The next five-year plan should keep this success in place and extend all this good work further.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (28/07/01)

Mountshannon was a pleasure to visit, as always. Much development had taken place in the village since the adjudicator's last visit. Examples of this were the new cottages at Lakeside Close in stone and plaster. The riverside area looked as beautifully maintained as ever – the charming route up the steps to the Aistear Inis Cealtera and on to the main street of the village is a pleasant and unique one. In terms of other landscaped spaces, these were as well maintained as ever. However, do remove the chain from the grassy green spaces on the main village street. Do discourage the activity of fly posting. The adjudicator was pleased to note that the site adjacent to An Cupáin Tae was being developed since first adjudication day.