

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **MOUNTBELLEW**
County : **GALWAY**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 30-07-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	40
The Built Environment	40	34	33
Landscaping	40	30	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	21
Litter Control	40	25	21
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	25	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	30
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	229	224

Mountbellew, County Galway

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Mountbellew Development association continue to make great efforts in making the town an interesting and attractive place to live in and to visit. A little more effort in softening the concrete look of the square through an abundance of flowerbeds and hanging baskets would continue the visual attractiveness of the bridge right through the village out to the approach roads. Gairdin na paisti has been photographed for consideration in the landscaping award category.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The square looks very neat and tidy – the resurfacing has paid off. The monument to “Bobby Jo” will be an attractive addition when in place. The church looked beautiful – a building of architectural integrity. All the buildings in the town looked freshly painted and well maintained although one commercial premise, the Hawthorn bar, still had Xmas decorations in situ. The forge is a wonderful stone cut building and the iron wrought security on the windows is a very attractive feature. The cemetery gates would look better if freshly painted and the GAA pitch gates and driveway was in need of some improvement. The bridge with its mileage indicator is a quirky attractive feature to the town.

LANDSCAPING

Mountbellew is blessed with a wonderful backdrop of wooded area. The planting at the base of the high walled area that contains the deer is wonderful as are the residential gardens generally in that area. Grass verges and those trees that are planted are well maintained.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The Deer farm and leisure park are treasures as is the lake walk behind the Church. Signposting of amenities – in particular at the access point to the leisure park could be improved and the area highlighted more as a feature of the town.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter is virtually absent in Mountbellew and the committee are to be congratulated on the effort put into such awareness. The litterbin between the Irish Permanent and the hairdressers is in need of replacement and some small amounts of litter was in evidence at the leisure park area.

TIDINESS

The recycling units are an eyesore, in particular the first one nearest to the town and should be moved to a back area or

screened off entirely. The car park opposite the cemetery is in need of resurfacing and detracts from the tidiness of the area. Overall, Mountbellew looks very neat and tidy and is a credit to everyone involved.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The majority of houses in Mountbellew and gardens are beautiful. Gratten Park had some excellent properties and the gardens were very attractive and in full bloom. The green central area in the Pinegrove estate was well maintained and rich looking.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Footpaths and roads appear in good condition. The signage for the N63 and the Schoolchildren signage near the Church and opposite the Agricultural College needs cleaning. Back areas appear to be getting appropriate attention and are well maintained.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Mountbellew looks like a town where people care about their environment and who are making an effort to continually improve their surroundings. Moving the recycling units, adding some floral arrangements in the coming years and erecting the new monument will further enhance the towns prestige at County and National level. Well done to all concerned!

SECOND ADJUDICATION (30/07/01)

As mentioned by the first adjudicator, do try to screen your recycling bins as they are in an extremely prominent location – weeds to kerbsides in this location created a bad first impression for the visitor. The attractive and charming old mile stone at the bridge was admired as indeed were the hanging baskets on the bridge. As mentioned, also by the first adjudicator, the Christmas decoration was still in place on one of the buildings on the square. Most of the buildings in this location were extremely well maintained and quite fresh. A most attractive side area adjacent to Lakeview Restaurant with its colourful display of nasturtiums and trellis work sets a marvellous example for the maintenance and presentation of side and rear areas, which should never be neglected when considering a town's overall presentation.