

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **MOUNTMELICK**
County : **LAOIS**
Category : **D**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 28-06-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	40
The Built Environment	40	30	30
Landscaping	40	32	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	16
Litter Control	40	20	19
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	22	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	29
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	211	204

Mountmellick, Co. Laois

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Mountmellick is welcome to the 2001 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your continued participation. Well done on your Heritage Trail, celebrating both your Quaker and Industrial Heritage. It is good to note your main objective being to encourage people to participate more in the management of the environment in a positive and creative way and to encourage the business and private sector to upgrade the town in general. It is also good to note your positive feelings regarding new residential development in the town. Congratulations on your Church Gate collection and other voluntary donations and the co-operation received from the council in terms of machinery, materials and finance. The Mountmellick Development Association appear to be a dynamic organisation committed to the development of the town in all respects. Congratulations.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Turleys premises looks well. The Farm Supplies and Home Care building is beautifully painted, and is an important visual element of the fabric of the town. The redevelopment of the Town Square is wonderful. It is a number of years since this adjudicator has been in Mountmellick and is pleasantly surprised in this regard. Many buildings marking the entrance to the town centre from the Clonaslee road appear to have been freshly painted. 'Hendys' building is beautifully presented. The offices of the Mountmellick Development Association are looking a little weatherstained and may need to be cleaned soon. We wait with interest to see the redevelopment of the building complex beyond the Garden Centre leading into the town which features a 'Sold' sign.

LANDSCAPING

Landscaping on the Portarlinton road has been noted, well done to Laois County Council in this regard. Maintenance to amenity areas on the Portlaoise road is vital for the introduction to the town from this approach road. The location of aesthetic street furniture on this road is appropriate. A shrubbery with trees at the turn off to the hospital is a better idea than a flower bed. The convent bridge area of the town is a focal point and landscaping and flood lighting will make a significant contribution. The climbing plants on the walls of the Midland Scrap Metal and Crane Hire company are well established by now and enhance these otherwise drab looking walls. The amenity development just inside the speed limit sign on the Clonaslee road is beautiful. Perhaps you could extend your landscaping programme to incorporate the wide street at

the entrance to the town centre from the Clonaslee road. The surrounds of the water pump on the Clonaslee road should be kept freshly whitewashed. Stretches of wire and post fencing along the Clonaslee entrance to the town should be planted with a hedgerow or a flowering shrub. The landscaped areas at the junction of the Portlaoise and Mountrath roads is much admired. A little work needs to be done on weed control and the roof of the 'Well' feature needs repairing.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Your choice of Rowan trees for the Tullamore road is good as these are valuable for wildlife. The old burial grounds out the Tullamore road are being nicely maintained. The displays of wildflowers and flowering hedgerow on grass verges are appealing. Have wildlife habitats been identified?

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control continues to be a problem. We agree with you that education is the key to overcoming it and it is good to note that you are in constant touch with students in schools and in heightening their awareness of litter. We hope your initiative with the community employment scheme pays dividends in respect of litter control. Some litter in the form of plastic carrier bags was noted in the river.

TIDINESS

Keep up the pressure on the owners of derelict buildings to renovate these as they can be, or are, quite untidy and a bit of an eyesore. Well done on derelict buildings that have been redeveloped. Well done on the household recycling project also, you are right, it does encourage households to become more environmentally aware and friendly. The commercial premises beside Scoil Iosaif Noafa looks very untidy. Greater weed control to the curtilage area of the CYMS building is necessary. The old petrol pump on the street near the Square is an eyesore.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Good luck to the residents of Kirwan park regarding their plans for the upgrading of their estate and congratulations to the residents of the Patterson estate and we look forward to seeing the results of their work on the new shrubbery. The row of single storey dwellings and the crescent of houses at the top of the Dublin / Portarlinton road are nicely presented, some leading up to 'Horans Bar' could be improved. The red bricked terraced houses are an important visual amenity feature of the town. The entrance to 'Brock View' is beautifully landscaped. The new housing development opposite the Garden Centre on the Portlaoise road looks particularly well.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

It was a pleasure to note the wirescape free main street of

the town. The railings of the bridge near the Mountmellick Development Association could be improved by painting them a bright colour. Street furniture could be better presented, particularly the bin and seating in the Town Square.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The overall impression of Mountmellick is favourable.