

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **MOUNTRATH**
County : **LAOIS**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 29-06-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	21	21
The Built Environment	40	25	24
Landscaping	40	28	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	19
Litter Control	40	21	21
Tidiness	20	14	13
Residential Areas	30	20	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	23
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	181	173

Mountrath, Co. Laois

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Mountrath is welcome to the 2001 Tidy Towns Competition. It is good to note that the community are supported in many ways, particularly with financial support and to note that you have the co-operation of your local authority, regional tourism authority, FAS and ESB for the Green Flag for the Girls Secondary School. You have not submitted a development plan highlighting your planned activities over the next few years. It is difficult to progress in the competition without this, so do have one prepared. It does not have to be prepared by a professional, the committee can prepare their own plan outlining areas that they wish to work on over the next few years.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Most properties are well presented. The extra large plastic neon sign on the Pharmacy premises should be removed altogether and if a sign is necessary, it should be replaced with one of appropriate scale and character. The remaining plastic neon signs and beer signs throughout the town hopefully will be replaced by more attractive ones. The Church of Ireland property is a landmark in the village and is beautifully presented. The Parochial Hall, which is a substantial building needs to be improved somewhat to its roadside edge.

LANDSCAPING

Your initiative on the amenity development at the GAA park is worthwhile. The small 'Society of Friends' park on the main street is a beautiful development and the riverside picnic area is a valuable amenity, it was being well used on adjudication day by the travelling public. It is good to note that it is signposted from the main road. The recently planted saplings on the Trumere road will make a significant contribution to this area of the town as they mature. The landscaped roundabout is being well maintained and is a nice feature, however it is not shown to its best with the condition of the public seating here. Your landscaping programme could be expanded to the roadside boundary walls of both the Livestock Mart and the adjacent Agri Supplies premises. These walls could feature some planting and in addition, some trees could be planted inside the walls to give a greater sense of enclosure. The young trees on the Portlaoise road were in danger of being overtaken by grass. A wide expanse of grassed roadside area to a residential development was stunning in its simplicity and elegance.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

It is good to note the Wildlife Conservation Area in the Town Park. The stands of wild flowers and flowering hedgerow

lining both sides of the Limerick road provide an important habitat for a variety of species. The outbreak of poppies on the Trumere road provide a dazzling display of colour.

LITTER CONTROL

You are constantly on the look out for litter and engaged in tightening up your litter control. Do give us some information as to how you go about this. A particular litter weak spot was the carpark on the main street. The source of the problem seems to be the deposition of bags of litter beside the recycling facility, so this is one area to monitor. A litter survey might be useful.

TIDINESS

The car depot at the top of the Kinnitty road is an unfortunate development at this site. The corrugated outbuildings on the river bank on the Limerick entrance to the town, which are highly visible on exiting from the picnic area should be repainted or refurbished. Try to eliminate weed growth from kerbs altogether.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

A new residential development planned for the town centre should revitalise Mountrath. Further new developments on the verge of the town hopefully will make a worthwhile contribution to the social and cultural life of Mountrath. Older estates are nicely presented in most respects and town houses look well also.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

A number of roadsigns need to be refurbished together with a number of litter bins, particularly the yellow ones. It was good to note the wirescape free areas of the town centre and attractive lampstandards. The carpark is nicely finished and maintained.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The overall impression of Mountrath is one of a busy town with a large throughput of traffic, however there are hidden delights to be found and these were a pleasure to experience. Well done on a good overall presentation.