

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **MULLINGAR**
County : **WESTMEATH**
Category : **F**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 06-07-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	33
The Built Environment	40	30	30
Landscaping	40	26	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	26	26
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	23
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	201	200

Mullingar, Co. Westmeath

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Mullingar immediately strikes as a very affluent town which is expanding rapidly. There is a seemingly endless construction of new housing estates around the town. In this capacity, it is important that Mullingar has the amenities to serve its rapidly growing population. The overall developmental approach for the town is well thought-out and I am delighted to see, in conjunction with Westmeath County Council, such a strong emphasis being placed on the upkeep of existing infrastructure, such as road surfaces, car parks, footpaths and street lights. I also look forward to the development of the new wildlife area planned at Grange and the implementation of safety schemes proposed for the Gaelscoil, Dalton Park/Ginnell Terrace and Patrick street.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The majority of shop fronts within the town are maintained to a very high standard. Canton Casey's pub at the Market Square has a very well-kept facade and the beautiful hanging baskets add great colour. Ulysses pub further down, also has a most attractive facade. Other premises worthy of mention are Pestle and Mortar, Fagan's Office Supplies, The Druid's Chair and Cassidy's pub. Auto Care on Austin Friar street should be repainted. Finn's bar could be greatly enhanced with brighter paintwork. The sign over The Novelty Gift Shop on Pearse street should be replaced. Heaton's is a little old-fashioned and needs a facelift. The Market House is a fine old stone building with lovely window boxes, but more could be done with the Market Square which would benefit from flower tubs, shrubberies, tree planting etc, by softening the harsh, concrete look. Shop fronts on Mount street are of a high standard and the Arts Centre looks most attractive with its hanging baskets. On Oliver Plunkett street, Sambodinos and MacEivilly's pharmacy have colourful, bright shop fronts. Further up, Con's, The Old Stand and The Newbury are adorned with beautiful flower displays. Well done to you all, on a high standard of presentation.

LANDSCAPING

The Town Park is a wonderful green expanse, central to the town, which should be maintained to a higher standard. The lawns are beautifully manicured and there is a wonderful variety of trees. However, many of the shrubberies need to be weeded, benches, bins and lamp posts painted and the pond cleaned out. There is a major problem with graffiti throughout the park which spoils its overall appearance. The children's play area is a great idea. The public toilet at the Pearse street entrance is most unattractive and ill-suited to its surroundings and should be removed. Congratulations on the introduction of hanging baskets on the new lamp posts along Dominick street. They add great colour and enhance the streetscape. The garden at the railway station is being well maintained and the flower boat on the far platform looks truly magnificent and is very well presented. Remember to deal with the

weeds on the platform and improve the flower display at the station entrance.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The wildlife area planned for Grange is a very ambitious undertaking and I hope you succeed in acquiring the necessary funds. It is most disappointing to see it so overgrown at present, considering all the work that had gone into the area. If the work recommences, ensure future funds are available to maintain the area to a high standard. The new footbridge on Harbour street is a wonderful new addition to the canal. The surrounding landscaped areas are very pretty, making brilliant use of the old railway sleepers. It was great to see fishermen using the canal on the day of inspection. There is also a lovely landscaped area beside the canal, opposite Penneys. I wish you well with your plans to landscape an area along the Lynn road.

LITTER CONTROL

I would like to commend you on your very detailed litter management plan. I am particularly impressed by how you are encouraging the business community, the schools and the residents to get involved in litter programmes such as the Voluntary Code of Conduct, the Green Schools Programme and the National Spring Clean. Tackling the litter problem is a team effort that can only be achieved when the whole community comes together and takes responsibility for this aspect of their town. For an area the size of Mullingar, litter is not as big a problem as it could be. The measures you have taken are obviously having an impact.

TIDINESS

There is a certain amount of dereliction around the town. West End Motors on Patrick street is somewhat of an eyesore and should be boarded-up. The roundabout at Grange needs to be weeded and the discarded traffic cone removed. Keep kerbs and footpaths free of weeds. The cathedral grounds should be maintained to a higher standard. Its shrubberies/flowerbeds need to be weeded. The grounds of the church on Church Avenue also need some attention.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard of residential housing is high on all approach roads. The housing estates around the town are very well presented and the newer estates are starting to settle-in nicely. Some houses on Harbour street need to be repainted. Dalton Park on the Delvin road, needs some attention and the statue at the entrance of the Shamrocks GAA club needs to be painted.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

On the Dublin approach, the grass verges and hedgerow need to be further cut back. On the Delvin road, some verges need attention but the trees and shrubs along the roadside are most attractive. There is a lovely tree-lined approach from Castlepollard. The verges on the Ballynacargy road need to be cut back particularly in front of the housing estate next to Tesco. The Ballymahon entrance is very good, with beautifully maintained gardens and grass verges, but the nameplate needs to be cleaned. The Kilbeggan road is also quite good and the new landscaping at the Lynn roundabout is maturing

nicely.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The overall impression is one of a rapidly expanding town, that requires careful management in order to maintain a good quality of life for its residents. Car parking and traffic congestion appear to be the significant problems facing Mullingar at the moment. Hopefully this will be addressed in the future. I would like to commend the Mullingar Tidy Towns Association for their sponsorship of the Scoil Cholmain gardening project, the Shop Front Competition and the Tidy Estates Award. Keep up the good work.