

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **MYSHALL**
County : **CARLOW**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 21-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	38
The Built Environment	40	30	30
Landscaping	40	34	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	23
Litter Control	40	24	25
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	26	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	226	225

MYSHALL, CO. CARLOW

OVERALL DEVELOPMENT APPROACH

The very large committee of 20 for such a small village is excellent. This allows great scope for innovative thinking and spreads the work over a large number of people. Working with public authorities is part and parcel of all tidy towns activities. Often the persistence of tidy towns committees can achieve issues such as underground channelling of cables and road and street light improvements. Encouraging young people to take an interest in developments and to participate in some way helps toward future membership.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Participation in the county council village paint scheme is a good idea. Often when people stand back or get outside advise about colour schemes they break out of a mould with interesting results. The small Catholic Church is a gem. The surrounds and style of this church are very inviting both inside and outside. The grotto is unique. The Church of Ireland church is most impressive and the inscription as to the benefactor is touching. The stone walls are a distinct feature of the village. The school is in good condition and cared for well. Business premises are a little varied in upkeep and perhaps the encouragement from the paint scheme will result in interesting changes. Some houses on the road opposite the school would benefit from renovation.

LANDSCAPING

The Millennium Park is a lovely feature. The entrance is attractive with the gates and piers. Would it be possible to have another entrance from the back of the church grounds. This could double as a contemplative garden. The trees are growing rapidly. Some clearing to reveal the stream would be helpful. Dumping of grass cuttings is not desirable as is occurring. Similarly there are grass cuttings being dumped at the upper part of the Tobar Bhride area. At the Tobar Bhride area there appears to be some neglect which is a pity as it is such a pleasant place. The new planting by orchard wall is a good idea. The spectacular double row of Irish Yew trees in the Church of Ireland grounds is really interesting. Such a perfect row of Irish Yew is seldom seen. They are perfectly in keeping with the style of the building. The mature copper beech trees are also very valuable in the landscape.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The Millennium garden and Tobar Bhride areas offer interesting opportunities for encouraging wildlife. The hedgerows are also available sources of wild life. Projects involving people with local knowledge and preferably involving children in the form of school projects would be beneficial.

LITTER CONTROL

The general level of litter is low. Litter was noted in the Tobar Bhrìde area and at the tennis court and the street. Constant vigilance is needed to ensure that people are constantly made aware and alert to a litter free requirement in the village.

TIDINESS

Constant monitoring is needed to develop a tidy town or village. Materials and signs on display outside shops are often unnecessary in small village as customers know exactly what they want and where to get it. The dumping of grass cuttings as mentioned above is not helpful. The underground cabling of wires will be helpful as there appears to be a huge amount of overhead cable - together with the coloured bulbs. The red litter bins with large advertising are in themselves drawing unnecessary attention.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The housing estate is generally well tended. The grass cutting is well done. Some trees are struggling a little. Some of the containers towards the back hedge are empty or have overgrown palms. The houses are generally cared for well - some exceptions where painting railings would be welcome. Many individual houses along the roads are very well cared for and have fine gardens on display.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The road surfaces at the village centre have become very worn. There is unevenness and the markings have worn away in places. Attention to sign cleaning is needed.

Approach roads are nicely treated. These have a very natural style with good grassed verges and hedges making an excellent formula.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Myshall is an excellent example of an Irish village style with the cross roads, churches, holy wells and business premises forming a compact unit. The surrounding countryside wraps the village in a lovely way.