

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 08-07-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	21	21
The Built Environment	40	25	25
Landscaping	40	28	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	21	21
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	181	181

Mountrath, County Laois

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The Tidy Towns Committee is commended for its efforts in generating the various estate associations, social and local authority interests' support. Mountrath has been going through a difficult time and this to some extent is reflected in the number of derelict buildings in the commercial centre. Nonetheless it is noted that planning permission has been applied for or granted in a number of cases and there is an opportunity to influence how the town should develop. A simple 3 to 5 year plan would not only give a sense of progress and direction to the Tidy Town's Committee, but would also provide a vision for the towns future development.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Church of Ireland at the Portlaoise road junction looks very well, set in well kept lawns and framed by ewe trees. A fair amount of weed remains at butt of church wall. Opposite the church, the school is set back from the road, is painted and along with its grounds, looks reasonably well. The car park frontage displays considerable weed along chain fence. On the Roscrea Road the building beside Garda station is dilapidated but there are signs of scaffolding. Garda station itself is reasonably presented but does display grass from gutter. The front wall of St. Fintan's, the old national school and now a FAS training centre, needs cleaning and there is some weed in the car park to front. The terrace of two storey houses opposite St. Fintan's have attractive pastel colour scheme and look well. Scoil Bhríde is excellent with well presented lawns and drop off point. Walls have shrubs to front and new trees have been planted. A litter bin has been attached to the barrier at the drop-off point. GAA grounds look O.K. but car park is a bit untidy. Sheds to left of bridge are unsightly although fencing to front has been painted. The centre of Mountrath suffers from a number of premises closed for business and, unfortunately a number are dilapidated which badly affects the streetscape. Bank of Ireland building looks well. Parochial hall looks fine with good paint work etc. Road surface in square is in good order.

LANDSCAPING

Along the Roscrea Road there are maturing trees growing along the right hand side down towards the church. These are a great investment in the future. The Roman Catholic Church grounds look fine. A little litter to front. Attractive flower bed to right of entrance and screening of walls is taking hold. Well done. Some weed show along bottom of walls as has St. Fintan's Community Hall. Grounds of the Brigidine Convent look very well. Nice lawns and well maintained. The riverside amenity at the bridge needs maintenance and the seat repainting. The stone wall along the riverside up towards the GAA field is well done but weed remains should be removed. Roundabout in the town square has nice selection of shrubs but the number of directional signs makes presentation untidy. Heavy wirescape stretches across the square and it is

considered that its ducting would greatly enhance its appearance.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Amenity Park looks very well with its cut lawns and a variety of maturing trees. There is a good selection of picnic tables and seating but the litter bins need servicing. Disappointing to note walking route directional post had been vandalised and deposited into the river. The small park at the Portlaoise Road Junction is in a bad state. One of the stone planters has been badly damaged, walls at road frontage are broken, and there is a bad show of litter.

LITTER CONTROL

Mountrath has a major litter difficulty in the Square, White Horse Lane, and car park in front of the hall in main street. Litter bins full to the brim in the square and litter show at seat beside roundabout. White Horse Lane is particularly bad with dereliction and litter. Some of the infill is untidy for example the fencing close to the 'Fresh Bait' shop.

TIDINESS

Open area behind Mullens lounge could be screened and there was a trailer dumped close to the riverside on the Roscrea Road. The riverside area beside the bridge requires higher levels of maintenance. Good to see the recycling bins in the car park, but some untidiness in that area with road surfacing materials and graffiti...The period lamps around square could be painted and cleaned.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

A good number of private gardens are well presented and the open green areas kept tidy. Approach roads have some fine two storey and bungalow residences. Most have well maintained mature gardens. Older estates looked well as did a number of fine town houses.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Generally the roads in Mountrath are in need of resurfacing. The approach from Ballyfin side has broken wall to right near 30mph sign and grass verges need cutting and trimming. Closer to the town are trimmed verges both left and right with staked trees. The approach from the Borris in Ossory side has cut verge from the 40mph sign. There is a nice new house and Shell garage with shrubs to front on the approach from the Portlaoise side, at 30mph sign. Part cut verge and trees in front of row of bungalows looks well. Opposite the Statoil Station is a footpath with protective pedestrian pillars, looks well. Main street footpath is uneven and cracked. Some dishing of footpaths.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Despite all its difficulties Mountrath has a number of strengths on which to build for its future. It has much to offer.