

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **MULLINALAGHTA**
County : **LONGFORD**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 05-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	23	23
The Built Environment	40	22	22
Landscaping	40	24	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	16
Litter Control	40	24	21
Tidiness	20	8	9
Residential Areas	30	15	15
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	17	16
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	157	152

Mullinalaghta, County Longford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

It should be of considerable benefit if, as suggested by the previous adjudicator, you were to undertake a 3-year Plan, listing your priorities for completion of whatever improvements are chosen for each year: this can give much impetus to the work (and, incidentally, increase marking under this heading). Please do not feel anxious about the time of year of the adjudication – the purpose of the competition is to create a pleasant place to live in all seasons, and the judges know from observation if plantings are well tended (whether in bloom or not).

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Ralph Byrne Church is, as always, beautifully kept; this is a really special and dignified building. The handsome school is nicely painted. There is still the problem of some dereliction; sometimes it is preferable to demolish rather than try to preserve – unless the building is of architectural or historic importance.

LANDSCAPING

The approach from Arva is most pleasant with well kept verge and planting, and the flowers as you come to the school. The flowers in the Memorial Garden were well tended on adjudication day, but the fine herbaceous border at the church was quite weedy – a job which should only take a few minutes each month. The planters at the graveyard and at the church did not seem to have been prepared for this season's annuals.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Being some distance from the village, this adjudicator was not aware until reading your notes of Mullinalaghta's involvement in the development and maintenance of the famous wood at Derry Casson – this is a splendid amenity, congratulations on the work.

LITTER CONTROL

There was very little litter on adjudication day – congratulations again.

TIDINESS

Weed growth seems to have been a problem this year – it is something which needs constant attention.

Excessive weed was noted at the beautifully situated GAA park, and in the roadside car

park below the school – this is something in which the children could become involved, in learning to keep their locality tidy. Weed growth was also evident at the Anglers' Rest and at the entrance of the Community Hall. The petrol pumps mentioned by last year's adjudicator do not appear to have been improved. However, the vicinity of the Post Office was weed free. The post-and-wire fence opposite the church needed attention or better still replacement – a strong wooden paling would look first class here.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

All of Mullinalaghta may be described as residential. There are many fine homes with pleasant gardens. Again, it was surprising how many had weedy frontages. A very fine white bungalow on the left as you arrive from the south gives a good initial impression, and the same may be said of a lovely traditional two-storey house on the right.

ROADS, STEETS AND BACK AREAS

Surfaces are good, except for a rough area opposite the Anglers' Rest which needs attention. Recent stone walls were much admired.

OVERALL IMPRESSION

A community rather than a village in the usual sense, it is clear that everyone contributes to the maintenance of the pleasant surroundings. This year weed growth seemed to be the problem - it is something which needs to be attended to all the year round.