

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Mullagh**

Ref: **447**

County: **Clare**

Mark: **186**

Category: **A**

Date: **04/07/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	29
The Built Environment	40	30	29
Landscaping	40	27	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	24	23
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	22
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	186	182

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for your submission and copy of your three year plan for improvements. Mullagh is quite an interesting west Clare Village, with immense rural charm, worthy of preservation and development in the right direction. Your task as a committee is to get the backing of the community and tackle your many problems on a phased basis. You could try to tackle a certain amount of work each year and don't rely on community employment schemes for all your progress.

The Built Environment:

As usual the school was excellent and is a real show piece for the rest of the village. However, its standard does not extend to other buildings in the village and this is a pity. The church is the dominant building in the village and is well presented. Its size is really only appreciated from the rear, which gives a different perspective to that of the front. If money and effort permitted it would be dramatic if painted in an appropriate colour. The extra tree planting around the church is commendable and the rural scene overlooking the cemetery is extremely pleasant. The community hall is not great and needs improved presentation and the health centre should be brightened up. The commercial activity of Tubridy's Garage is acknowledged as I'm sure it gives a valuable service to the farming community, but it should be presented to a higher standard. D'Arcy's is excellent, together with the environs and also An Post.

Landscaping:

It was a most welcome site to encounter the Little Moon Garden Centre on the approach road. This gives you an opportunity to seek valuable advice on the proper type of planting for the village. The window boxes and hanging baskets throughout the village are very colourful and effective. The village pump on the approach is very well presented but the one in the village centre needs painting. You have a problem for some years with road surfacing and you need to lobby Clare County Council for improvement.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your efforts here could be aimed at planting food plants that would yield fruit for wildlife. If you are planting shrubs you should consider the holly, hawthorn, barberry and crab apples etc. You might then progress to identifying the popular wildlife of the area and aim for getting a display board erected at a suitable site. The absence of a river doesn't mean you cannot contribute.

Litter Control:

Litter does not seem to be a problem and the village was almost litter free on adjudication day, except for a few small pieces near the playing field.

Tidiness:

As mentioned last year your problems here relate to a good deal of poorly presented open spaces, some dereliction and poor road surface. While the playing field is a valuable asset its environs and approach are very untidy. It also needs a name identity - is it a GAA Development? - even the goal post need painting. The view on leaving the field reveals a number of rusty corrugated roofs in need of painting.

Residential Areas:

Many individuals are presenting their premises to a high standard and playing their part - others are not great. The housing estate opposite the school is an ideal site for resident action. With little effort and help from the Community Employment Scheme this estate could match the standard of the school - you should think seriously about such a development.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Rear and back entrances that are visible from the public road need extra attention. Owners of premises should be encouraged to keep these areas well presented. The approach from the east is very overgrown. You should also erect two decorative Failte signs that would provide a good introduction to the village. The No Trespassing sign at the house in the village is excessive in size.

General Impression:

It is always a pleasure to visit such a unique rural village like Mullagh. The above comments are made in good faith, as the village has potential for much higher markings. Good luck in 2004.