

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Mitchelstown**

Ref: **482**

County: **Cork North**

Mark: **196**

Category: **D**

Date: **24/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27	25
The Built Environment	40	30	29
Landscaping	40	30	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	11
Litter Control	40	25	25
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	26	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	26
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	196	190

Overall Developmental Approach:

The map submitted with the application form was very helpful in identifying the areas referred to in your projects submission and this year-by-year list of projects is impressive. At this stage, it would also be beneficial to place these projects in a broader context by drafting a 3 to 5 year development plan for the town. This plan would include the current task list, but would also clearly identify your overall objectives for the town and the issues that need to be addressed to achieve those objectives over this period. This would help towards the town's co-ordinated development while also highlighting the progress being made by the committee from year to year, beneficial to both to yourselves and the adjudicator. In drafting the plan, it would be advisable to consult all the local agencies, such as the local authority, local development groups, etc. and, of course, the community. The preparation and implementation of such a plan would not only be good for Mitchelstown, but would allow you make even further progress in the competition.

The Built Environment:

Mitchelstown offers many fine buildings both historic and present day business premises. The Kings College area is beautiful and lends real character to the town that many people miss as they pass through the main street. The Church of Ireland church at one end of George's Street and Kings College at the other, sets a real picture. The Galtee and Dairygold buildings are important commercial properties and these are well presented. The Church of the Immaculate Conception occupies a pivotal place. The staining on some of the walls of this church is unfortunate, as is the

staining on the nearby school walls. Many shops through the town are well presented with good attention to paint and cleanliness. There are some that require upgrading and these tend to be more obvious where others lead the field in this respect. The major premises directly opposite the statue in the Market Square is suffering – hopefully this will be occupied soon. Other premises on side streets need attention, for example Myles Bakery and the sheds on the James Street close to the Fire Station. The Ozanam building is well used on Thomas Street and good work in restoring this has been achieved. Work continues at the Brigown cemetery and the road improvements is in progress. The new building developments at Araglin Road were noted.

Landscaping:

The most impressive landscape area of the town is the George's Street and Kings College Square. The lime trees are very well presented with the simple formula of well maintained grass. The drain incorporated into the grassed area is good. Further up towards the Church of Ireland church end, the planting of flower borders is attractive and adds colour, but extending this down any further would seem unwise. The squares themselves are well planted. The formal double line of trees across towards the entrance to Dairy Gold is magnificent. One wonders if a more formal approach should be adopted with the entire square rather than the use of mixed-shrub informal borders in the remainder of the square. The Market Square area is very well presented; the trees are developing very well and the underground cables give this square an attractive appearance. The flower areas add welcome colour and the paving is well presented. The area to the front of the Galtee factory is well planted with trees fronting the road. Trees at the entrance to the Coop Super-store are helpful. The Presentation Convent School is well planted and attractive. St. Fanahan's School down the road from this is very stark and requires some planting – it has very good boundary planting to the upper side. The cemeteries at the church in this region are a little disappointing. Many have long grass and do not appear well cared for. Landscaping on the roadsides by the Galtee factory area is attractively done.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The path and area of St. Fanahan's Well is interesting. This provides a long walk between the beech trees, but the bases of the trees and side of the walk seem to be completely burnt from weed killer (?). This is a shame as there could be such an interesting range of plants there. Some thorns and wild roses are planted on the outer side of this. At the well area, there is a more natural appearance. The small field beside the well area, to which there is access by stones over a stream, seems to offer opportunities for wild life. Maybe by flooding a part of this, a pond could be made and an interesting wildlife project developed.

Litter Control:

On walking the streets, there was a considerable amount of small litter noticed. Persistent campaigns are needed and continual cleaning in order to get this difficulty resolved. Bottle and can banks, however, were noted at the Catholic church carpark.

Tidiness:

There are many broken footpaths along the streets and many of these, such as outside the Ozanam building, are natural stone. In any future repaving these should be recycled. Broken footpaths and weeds growing through were spotted in many places along the streets. The area at George's Street was seen as the reverse of this. The New Market area had a very tidy appearance.

Residential Areas:

There is a considerable amount of residential housing within the streets of the town. This is both unusual and attractive as it creates a great life within the town. Houses are well maintained and this shows a great pride by their owners. Houses at Ashfield Manor were admired with the well

landscaped areas around them. Mulberry Crest housing looked very well . The massive housing construction at Carrigroe will need keeping a watchful eye over so as to ensure the developer properly finishes the site. A major development is also taking place opposite this area. Ballinwillin Close is very attractive and indicates great care and attention being taken to homes and gardens and to the green area. Houses and gardens on the approach roads add considerably to their appearance.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The enormous amount of traffic (including heavy goods traffic) passing through the town puts much pressure on the roads. The roads around the Kings College Square are in poor state and it is expected that these will be renewed when all work is finished. The cobble stone gullies along by the Castle Palace Hotel are attractive and a restoration of this half covered stone feature would be well worthwhile. As stated above, footpaths through the town are badly cracked and broken and much renewal work is needed with these. Approach roads to Mitchelstown are well tended to and marked. The Kildorrey Road is especially well marked and the cycle lanes are a great advantage. Some attention to roadside grass cutting is needed on the Dublin road.

General Impression:

Mitchelstown offers a great amount of interest, much of which is not seen by the passer-by. The progress made to date is very good and with good planning and continual work, Mitchelstown will emerge as a very significant contender in the Tidy Towns competition in the future