

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Mountrath**

Ref: **288**

County: **Laois**

Mark: **181**

Category: **C**

Date: **10/07/2003**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2003 | Mark Awarded 2002 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 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 | 22 | 21 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 14 | 14 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 20 | 20 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 25 | 25 |
| General Impression | 10 | 6 | 7 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 181 | 181 |

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for your entry to Tidy towns 2003. The committee has a difficult task as many of the old town buildings are due for renewal while at the same time the town's main street has to handle very high levels of traffic movement. It is recommended that the committee prepare a 3 to 5 year plan so that both the progress you have made, and the aspirations you have for the town's future are defined and understood

The Built Environment:

The Church Of Ireland looks well. It is a pity to see that the ewe trees have been cut back leaving unsightly stumps. On the Dublin Road the fence along the school is very badly weeded. Some attempt has been made to cut the lawn at the side of the school car park. Within the grounds of the school lawns are well kept. The Parochial hall needs a coat of paint. The Garda station looks well with it's trimmed lawn. The FAS Training Centre is undergoing restoration and the yard frontage was being used to store rubble and builder's material. The Midland Health Board premises is nicely presented with lawn and shrubs. Scoil Bhride is looking very well with its frontage of trimmed lawns and shrubs, well maintained car parking/pick up point. The GAA Park is well maintained. The RC Church grounds look fine. An attractive flower bed to right of the entrance and the screening of walls is taking hold. The grounds of the Brigidine Convent look very well, with nice well maintained lawns. The centre of Mountrath suffers from a number of premises closed for business and, unfortunately a number are dilapidated which badly affects the streetscape.

Landscaping:

The Quakers' park looks very attractive with its new walls and colourful planter along its back wall. There is a concentration of road signs at this junction which affects the frontage. The round about in the town square has a nice selection of plants and shrubs set in gravel. The seat requires refurbishing and painting. Over head cables are a problem in this area. On the right of the Dublin road there is an attractive green area which is nicely maturing fronting onto a housing estate.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The amenity park is very nice with well maintained green area and a wide selection of trees and shrubs. Pathways which run both sides of the river are clean and tidy and the small well feature is very attractive. There is some litter due to birds feeding from litter bins. The river has maturing trees along its banks and an abundance of wildflower and is an excellent wildlife habitat. There is a good connecting wall from the main street to the park bridge.

Litter Control:

Mountrath's litter problem has much improved which reflects very well on the committee's work in this area.

Tidiness:

Most of the untidiness in Mountrath relates to uncontrolled car parking and either dilapidated or unused premises. The high traffic levels passing through the town damage road surfaces. It is good to see the recycling bins in the car park, but some untidiness in that area with road surfacing materials. The period lamps around the square could be painted and cleaned. The round about area has an unfortunate dilapidated building on the right hand side which has a tyre sign protruding from its top.

Residential Areas:

St. Fintans Terrace is a nice housing development with grassed areas either side of its entrance with a variety of maturing trees. The central green area could be better maintained. Opposite the entrance is a large house which is falling into disrepair. Kiln Lane is a residential area. On the left hand side is a green area which has been trimmed and backed by a large llandii hedge. The road surface is pretty poor, but maintenance generally is good. A small show of litter and kerb weed along the gutter was evident.

A good number of private gardens are well presented and the open green areas kept tidy.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach from Ballyfin has a nice cut verge on both sides but closer to the town near Kiln Lane the roadside presentation deteriorates. There is some disruption due to house building taking place. The access from the Abbeyleix side has a number of small business premises whose frontages are not well kept. From the 30 mile sign is a good footpath and absence of litter. The entrance to Mountrath from the Limerick side looks quite well. However there are broken footpaths and a number of premises either for rent or sale. Car parking is a problem.

General Impression:

Mountrath needs a major restoration of its town centre. Many of its buildings are old and deteriorating. The new housing estate being developed behind the Limerick road could well be the key to the key to kick start investment in the town.