

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Mountshannon**

Ref: **335**

County: **Clare**

Mark: **268**

Category: **A**

Date: **31/07/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	49	48
The Built Environment	40	37	36
Landscaping	40	38	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	25
Litter Control	40	35	36
Tidiness	20	18	18
Residential Areas	30	27	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	29
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	268	264

Overall Developmental Approach:

Mountshannon continues to embody the spirit of the Tidy Towns Competition. The thirteen person Committee must be commended for their hard work and commitment to the ideal of ensuring that the village and lakeside develop in a structured manner. The documentation provided – Entry Form, updated 2003/2004 Plan and Map was most comprehensive. Also, the copy of the Community Newsletter demonstrates how care is taken to involve all the residents of Mountshannon to become aware and no involved in your efforts. In this time of change when a new development is planned for the harbour this is most important so that the views of all may be taken into account. Another important development for the future is the completion of the fourth and final stages of the Aistear as outlined in your plan. Obtaining LEADER funding for this project is a plus and we wish you well in your quest to also obtain the necessary matching funding required.

The Built Environment:

The nearly completed premises replacing a derelict building on the main street are to be welcomed. It was noted that the other unoccupied premises on this street has been well disguised but plans for its future development should also be looked at. Unfortunately, the petrol pumps mentioned in the first and second adjudication reports last year still remained unpainted. The public buildings such as the Community Centre with its good planting, the Churches, School, Garda Barracks and

Mountshannon Hotel were well presented. At the Harbour the changing area and public toilets were also well maintained.

Landscaping:

The Aistear continues to be the main feature under this category and continues to impress. The green areas here, and throughout the rest of the village were immaculate on the day of adjudication. The planting is now beginning to mature and many of the shrubs are starting to cover the areas which was mentioned as unkempt last year. However, there were still quite an amount of weeds in evidence, some of which could be eliminated through using bark mulch. However, maintenance was considerably better and a couple of people were noted working throughout the Park. The same comments apply to the planting by the Harbour. The new seating here to commemorate your colleague Norbert Reislings is appropriate in every sense. The nautical theme flower beds on the main street were weed free, colourful and attractive. The work on the trees in the village is important in caring for what is a valuable heritage. Outside the new building previously mentioned we noted an approximately 10ft stump where a dead tree must have been removed and wondered if this is the stump that Coillte Teoranta recommended be used for sculpture purposes which would seem to be an excellent idea.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The work outlined above all contributes under this category. Also the Woodpark Forest Nature Trail.

Swans were noted by the swimming area and, of course, Mountshannon must be congratulated for receiving a Blue Flag in 2004.

Litter Control:

There was little evidence of litter throughout the village and approaches on the day of adjudication. However, there were beer cans and cigarette butts on the paving near the arched shelter overlooking the lake. Unfortunately, because of its quiet situation this could happen on a nightly basis and a tidying operation would be needed here every morning.

Tidiness:

The heart of the village was tidy with kerbs weed free. A handmade sign for the shop in the boathouse had an untidy appearance. The base of the walls on the approach from Killaloe needed some attention and also ivy needed to be removed from some stone walls on the other approach. The two entrances to Woodpark Forest were weed free but a recently abandoned traveller site with two wrecked caravans and other debris near the entrance on the back road was an eyesore. No marks were deducted for this as it was outside your control but plans should be put in place to prevent a reoccurrence if possible.

Residential Areas:

Residential housing has increased considerably in the village and no doubt these new residents will be encouraged to join in your efforts. A good use of colour has been applied at the houses on the Killaloe approach. Established residents already contribute to the Tidy Towns efforts throughout.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Roads were improved following the work undertaken last year and signage well maintained. The roadside foliage on the back road to the harbour could be trimmed back.

General Impression:

Mounthshannon has become a lakeside resort for visitors with the trips to Holy Island, Boat & Bicycle Hire, Lough Derg Craft Trail, nearby availability of Golf and the two Festivals – The Iniscealtra Festival of the Arts and the Fair Day Week End. The Mounthshannon Community Council are at the heart of this activity and your contribution is vital. We noted that you have obtained a Silver Medal in the National Tidy Towns Competition in 2001/2002 and 2003 and wish you continued success in the future.

Second Round Adjudication:

The harbour and associated green areas with seating, picnic tables and good shrub plantings make a very pleasant waterside setting –some seating requires attention on the promontory to the front of the toilets. The huge amount of building that has taken place in and around the village places much pressure on the nucleus of the village. The attractive wall building to the roadside frontage of some new building developments was noted. The 2003 to 2007 plan is impressive and good considerations were made in the plan. The Aistean is a wonderful development with a great diversity of interest and sources of activity. The accessibility of this - both from the harbour and the street make it all the more beneficial. Some attention to the detail of weeds in shrubberies and grass weeds in the pebbles at the gate would be helpful. In the main street the tree and summer colour planters give a very attractive streetscape and the Hydrangea in full bloom was a very attractive sight on the footpath. Some litter was noted on the passageway by a timber panel fence to housing along the road to the harbour. On the north side exit to the village the roadside tree and shrub roadside planting was admired.