

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Myshall**

Ref: **488**

County: **Carlow**

Mark: **233**

Category: **A**

Date: **11/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	39
The Built Environment	40	32	31
Landscaping	40	35	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	23
Litter Control	40	27	28
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	26	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	233	232

Overall Developmental Approach:

Do ensure for next year's competition that you formulate a three to five year work programme. This document need only be three pages long, outlining your plans and objectives for the village and setting a time-frame against their implementation. Many thanks for your map, which was most helpful on adjudication day. Myshall Tidy Towns Committee have a keen awareness of their environment and an enthusiasm and passion to maintain and improve it! Do ensure that you keep up the pressure on developers to build housing schemes that are suitable to an Irish village and that are finished (in terms of materials and landscaping) to the highest of standards! Regarding the granite building which was lost to your architectural stock during the year you should contact Carlow County Council's conservation officer (if they have one) in order to establish the list of protected structures for the village and perhaps meet with officials in the Council to express your concerns and highlighting those buildings in Myshall that you feel should be listed or "protected" as the terminology is now! You should also consider contacting An Taisce to see if they can help in this regard, in order that any buildings of architectural worth are preserved.

The Built Environment:

The Catholic Church and grounds looked very well as did the Church of Ireland. The school looked very fresh in yellow with cheerful hanging baskets and well kept grounds - congratulations in advance on its 50th anniversary! This should be an occasion to celebrate. The Hall looked quite fresh and the Health Centre was fine, although its boundary wall sported evidence of red algae

growth. Commercial premises in the village also were well maintained. The grotto looked well - that on the Bagenalstown Road but the stone wall to the church car park should also be repaired.

Landscaping:

The adjudicator was interested to hear your proposals in relation to Tobar Bhríde - plans for this area are eagerly awaited. If they are not completed for next year's competition then do submit your drawings, plans and proposals in order that the adjudicator can see them. Millennium Park looked well and both churches contribute well to this aspect of the competition. An attractive bank of cottage garden type flowers such as lupins on the Bagenalstown Road was greatly admired. There is scope for a landscaping project at the entrance to the GAA grounds, which seem somewhat bare and basic at the moment. The attractive graveyard beside Tobar Bhríde was also admired, as was the marvellous planting at the back wall of the church car park. There is scope for a landscaping project at the cross roads and village pump at the cross roads in the centre.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The adjudicator was pleased to note your first year of entry into the Green Schools Competition and good luck with your future efforts in this regard. Perhaps you could consider getting involved with the local school children for future projects such as the construction and erection of nesting boxes, feeding tables and studies of wildlife habitats in the locality. The wildlife mural at the school was admired as was the wildlife information board at the well.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day was not as good as could be hoped. Quite a lot was evident throughout the village - by the recycling bins and to the hedging to the front of the Catholic Church and opposite the grotto.

Tidiness:

Weed control was a problem in areas such as the kerbs and pavements along the Tullow Road and the base of the boundary wall at the school. Weeds were also apparent to kerbsides on the Borris Road. In terms of the Recycling Area, as previously mentioned, ensure that the area is kept clear and neat. You could also consider screening the bins in some way with a stone wall, similar to that surrounding the car park in which it sits, this will give it a more discreet appearance. There was evidence of dumping behind a trailer at the cross roads and the safety barrier at the school was rusty.

Residential Areas:

An established housing estate was well maintained with attractive landscaping. It is to be hoped that the new developments will maintain the same high standards! Existing individual housing stock on approach roads and in the village were well maintained for the most part! Some very charming farmhouses are to be seen all along approach roads.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The standard in this category of the competition could have been better. On the Bagenalstown Road the village nameplate was very grubby and although the verges had been cut the dead grass had not been removed. The Borris Road was quite overgrown - do ensure that you strike a balance in order to achieve a natural appearance. Roadsides should not be too manicured nor too wild and overgrown! The village nameplate on this side was also very grubby and virtually obscured by the

overgrowing grass!

General Impression:

Myshall is an attractive country village set in some magnificent scenery of high rolling green hillsides. It is a number of years since this adjudicator last had the pleasure of visting the village and it has certainly come along in leaps and bounds since! The high level of support you receive from the local community is obviously paying off - good luck with your future endeavours regarding funding in order to keep up your excellent work

Second Round Adjudication:

The front of the community centre was well presented but the side areas were poor in comparison. Much excellent planting was noted throughout. Signs of weed killer at Tobar Bhríde were disappointing. Verges have been trimmed on the Borris Road. The fine stone walls on this road would benefit from clearing of overgrowth. Some prominent yards and out buildings need upgrading as they detract from many good individual buildings. Regrettably considerable litter was noted throughout the village and on the approaches. Weeds at the base of walls and kerbsides here and there were noted on the Fenagh Road. Roadsides here had only been partially maintained. While many individual residential properties were well presented several gates and boundary walls looked poor. Those stone walls which had been maintained were admired. Road signs needed cleaning. The standard was quite mixed on the Bunclody Road but the school looked particularly well. The Churches were exceptional. The road up hill past the Church had been partially trimmed. It is appreciated that considerable development is occurring through the village. The pump in the village centre has pride of place – planting here could be more adventurous, and weeds and litter should have been cleared. Hopefully this is not indicative of declining interest.