

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Mitchelstown**

Ref: **154**

County: **Cork North**

Mark: **211**

Category: **D**

Date: **27/06/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	27
The Built Environment	40	32	31
Landscaping	40	33	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	12
Litter Control	40	28	26
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	26	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	27
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	211	201

Overall Developmental Approach:

What a most informative submission by your secretary, which proved most helpful on a beautiful June adjudication day. Much of the originals of this planned town are still in tact and have coped well with the pressures from modern-day buildings. A copy, (now out of print) of the town trail leaflet acquired at the Ballyhoura Information Office proved helpful in the absence of a town street map, which you might consider publishing in the future. One needs to traverse the interesting wide, spacious streets of Mitchelstown by foot to appreciate much of the late 19th century and abundance of 19th century architecture of the town. You are endowed with a great variety of mature and new trees which give great beauty to the town. We commend you on your ability to raise funding for many of your projects and the additional works outlined in your submission are adding to your marks. A.R.O.M.A is an important organisation tackling many improvements throughout the town, so well done to all concerned.

The Built Environment:

This is one of your strong points and few towns can boast of so many fine period buildings in such a presentable condition. The lengthy Cork Street, upper and lower has a great variety of attractive shops and some excel. We liked the AIB and Bank of Ireland and the Credit Union is a splendid development and appropriately fitted out within. You still have some fine traditional shopfronts and these need to be maintained and avoid modern renovations. Many have yielded to the pvc syndrome and this is regrettable. Well done on flood lighting the two churches, which surely looks impressive

at night. You need to erect more street names as some areas are not identified. Many towns are now identifying lanes also as they can be of historical significance and are of particular interest to visitors. The Livestock Mart area in lovely George's Street is now a black spot and unacceptable in this day and age.

Landscaping:

You can be grateful to the early developers for leaving you a legacy of wonderful lime and other mature trees. The trees at King Square are unique. Within our own time you are leaving your mark also, and the tree planting at Market Square is excellent. All of these are well enhanced with many colourful displays of flowers, shrubs, window boxes, hanging baskets and of course some individual effort by residents. Approach roads, especially the Mallow approach are very attractive and reflect a very good first impression for the town. The Brigown Cemetery is well presented but the entrance gates need painting. The drive from the church down along George's Street is one of the most impressive in the region.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

We note your comments and intentions to work with St. Fanahan's Well Committee and we hope to witness the fruits of your efforts in due course. You are also contributing to the promotion of wildlife by tree planting and you might consider erecting some display boards illustrating some of the flora and fauna of the area. Wildlife is also ideal for school projects and the increased awareness throughout the country should help in generating interest.

Litter Control:

Seldom is it this adjudicators delight to witness such litter control in such a large town. On a Monday adjudication day the town was extremely well presented under this category of litter control. This is most praiseworthy and we congratulate all concerned: consequently you have raised your marks in this section. We did note overflowing litter bins at the Esso Filling Station.

Tidiness:

Your problems here relate to some unattended open spaces. You also have pockets of dereliction which cause untidiness. The Livestock already alluded to is quite untidy. Your area, like most towns of your size experiencing a good deal of house building and such developments: e.g., Mulberry Housing estates are in places quite untidy. The boundary wall on the Presentation Secondary School would benefit from painting. Well done on the policy of placing cables underground.

Residential Areas:

The standard of residential areas is quite good and some excel. We liked the entrance to Ashfield Manor and the houses are of high quality in presentation. New housing schemes offer opportunity for an improved Mitchelstown and also potential for more community endeavour from the residents. You should consider a local competition for housing estates. The period houses at Kings Square are well presented and many residents have great made efforts to present well presented gardens. Sarsfield Casey Drive would benefit from attention to some boundary walls.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approach roads are well presented and we congratulate you on the cycle lanes on the Mallow approach. You have a weakness with footpaths on Cork Street, despite the attractive limestone pavements on the northern side. You now need to extend this standard to the south side of Cork Street. You are fortunate to have such wide footpaths. We suggest you give a clean-up to Naomh Fanahan and to the lovely John Manderville statue which is the most impressive piece of sculpture in the town.

General Impression:

You have scored well and this reflects well on your efforts in almost all categories. The town looked really well and you are tackling new projects with great enthusiasm. Your task now is to firm up your plans for the coming years and to seek good cooperation from the community and the relevant authorities. We wish you well in your endeavours.