

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Mountmellick** Ref: **416**
County: **Laois** Mark: **222**
Category: **D** Date(s): **07/08/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	42
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	18
Waste Minimisation	20	11
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	24
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	222

Overall Development Approach:

Many thanks for your submission, which was most helpful on the day. The work you have done in the Race Against Waste project is most impressive and a cheerful display and series of banners were on view in O'Connell Square on the day, marking its success! The Mountmellick Tidy Towns Committee is presumably a sub-branch of the busy and far reaching Mountmellick Development Association? The work that has been achieved is impressive, in particular the forming of ties and connections with other local groups, including the important Race Against Waste and Environmental groups. The association formed with the schools in relation to the Green Flag initiative is commendable.

The Built Environment:

The work you are undertaking with regard to derelict buildings is laudable. Hopefully many of these will be resolved by next year's competition. The standard in this category of the competition was somewhat inconsistent. There are a number of well presented premises in the town. Of note being Dempsey's with its unusual paintwork, Café Arioso and Turley's with its attractive planting. A large old industrial (mill?) building on the Portlaoise road is for sale and due to be developed. Due ensure that any design is in keeping with the character and nature of the town, especially as this is in such a prominent location. Weeds were noted at the base of its wall. The Museum and Mountmellick development association building looked quite fresh. The Library will need a paint before next year's competition. A building adjacent to the old Mason's Hall was also in need of painting. The Fire Station was fresh but its forecourt area was a little weedy. The Church of Ireland looked well; the adjacent modern building was admired. Glanbia was in need of painting in its prominent location as was the Catholic Institute. The Bank of Ireland looked well. The Credit Union looked well. The Catholic Church looked well, although a number of buildings on the Dublin side of the town looked somewhat neglected. The school in this location sports some fine mature grounds. The post office was quite fresh and the school opposite sported its Green Flag proudly and was admired.

Landscaping:

The landscaping of the Owenass River linking the playing fields with the bridges is an interesting project as is that at the Convent Bridge. An attractive and well-maintained picnic area was noted on the Mountrath road. The colourful display of petunias at the garden centre on this road created a good impression.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The composition of the Wildlife Enhancement Plan is commendable and we look forward to seeing its implementation at the Convent Bridge area and at other landscaped areas throughout the town. The consultation with the Forest and Wildlife Service in relation to the new park and playground area at Smith's Field is laudable.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day was very bad – quite a lot of litter was in evidence at the town centre, along the main streets of the town and in particular to a O'Connell Square, and along approach roads. This was particularly unfortunate given the displays lauding your achievements in the Race Against Waste initiative, which were on view here. The further involvement of the resident's associations and Council workers, and the provision of extra bins will hopefully have effect in regards to this category. Hopefully the restoration of the local Tidy Towns Competition will also have effect, as this problem was quite unfortunate on the day.

Waste Minimisation:

The participation in the pilot Race Against Waste project is certainly an exciting prospect! The project certainly reads as a very thorough and interesting one. Hopefully it will be a success and set the standard for the rest of the country!

Tidiness:

The town looked somewhat inconsistent in standard on the day. Your work in relation to contacting members of the business community, local schools and Fas in regard to this aspect of the competition is commendable. The bridge over the river on the Portlaoise road needed a wash down, as it was quite grubby. Weed control was a problem at a wall on the Tullamore road adjacent to the graveyard.

Residential Areas:

Your work in relation to encouraging developers to finish their estates to a high standard is a very important one. The areas that you should concentrate on: are the style of the development, type and quality of materials used and a high standard and level of landscaping. You would appear to have a good working relationship with local residents associations. A couple of attractive houses and gardens on the Portlaoise road created a good impression on this approach to the town. Ash Grove was admired for its attractive landscaping. The terraced brick cottages on the Dublin road are most attractive as are the ones opposite, some with attractive floral displays. The (Bord na Mona?) houses next to Kirwan Park were also admired. Similar style houses were admired on the Tullamore road. Grange Hall was just completed and landscaping here looked well.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approaches to the town were inconsistent in appearance on the day. The Limerick road was reasonably well maintained given the construction work taking place on the day, but the Dublin road looked quite neglected. We look forward to the implementation of traffic calming measures, which are presumably the end result of the current works? We also look forward to the works you propose in these areas once works are complete. The roundabout at the Square had been well adorned with flowers. Directional signs in the centre of the town at Bank of Ireland were rather grubby.

General Impression:

Mountmellick was most interesting for the adjudicator to visit for the first time. It has a rich and interesting Quaker past. The fine smell of turf was created a quite nostalgic atmosphere on the day.