

# Tidy Towns Competition 2006

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Mountrath** Ref: **284**  
County: **Laois** Mark: **202**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **07/08/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	27
The Built Environment	50	26
Landscaping	50	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	23
Litter Control	50	23
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	23
General Impression	10	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>202</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Many thanks for your submission, which was most helpful on the day. The committee seems a little small given the size (and ever-expanding nature) of Mountrath. You would appear to have a good working relationship with Laois County Council and the GAA. You mention "keeping in contact" with local schools-have you considered getting their help and assistance in dealing with certain aspects of the competition such as litter control, waste management and wildlife? The continuity in committee membership must be helpful in maintaining a steady approach to the competition. We were sorry to hear of your problems regarding vandalism and anti social behaviour and hope that this will improve in the not too distant future.

### **The Built Environment:**

The commercial properties in the town centre were somewhat inconsistent in appearance on the day. Of note were Credit Union, the Curiosity, Phil's Bar, The Fountainhouse, the Coffedock and Centra . Gallagher's is an attractive traditional front-perhaps a new colour scheme could be considered in order to bring out its lovely features? The Bank of Ireland looked well but its gable and side wall by the car park were in need of attention on the day. The restoration of the laneway leading from the riverbank to the town centre is an impressive one. The Garda Station was quite fresh. Although the National School looked quite fresh, it will need to paint its boundary wall before next year's competition. Midway Flowers was admired and the nearby tubs of nasturtiums made a cheerful impact. The Catholic Church addresses the street through a gateway directly on to it, and was well presented. The Church of Ireland looked well in its prominent location at the bend in the road. The Mission Hall and Parochial Hall were both in need of a fresh coat of paint. There are a number of empty buildings, which contrast sharply in appearance to those that are freshly presented-especially those on the Limerick side of the square and near the Credit Union.

### **Landscaping:**

There are many attractive incidental landscaped spaces in the town centre. Many were of cheerful and abundant displays of nasturtiums-that beside Anything Goes was particularly impressive. The play area in the amenity park will be a marvellous asset for the young citizens of the town-it looked well on the day and attractive planting at the riverbank looked most cheerful. The planting of commemorative oak trees – a native species – on the riverbank at the bridge is commendable. The Quaker Resting Ground is somewhat discreet - maybe too much so - perhaps a plaque could be considered in this location.

#### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The provision of a wildlife area in the amenity park, and its ongoing maintenance, is commendable. We look forward to seeing your wildlife information boards in the not too distant future.

#### **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 on the Dublin road-in particular to a green space here. Your litter patrols will possibly need to become more regular. The further involvement of the schools and provision of extra bins will hopefully have effect in regards to this category.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

The recycling area was reasonably neat on the day, with a minor outbreak of dumping. The proposed participation in the County Waste Minimization Project is applauded. Congratulations to the school that achieved Green Flag status-hopefully the others will not be too far behind!

#### **Tidiness:**

The town had a neat and ordered appearance on first impressions. However, closer inspection revealed quite a lot of dereliction and neglected shopfronts. We appreciate the problems you have with regard to graffiti. Discourage advertising hoardings as these can give approach roads a rather cluttered appearance. Messy yard areas such as one on the Dublin approach to the town should be screened from public view. Don't forget rear areas of buildings on Main Street that are very visible from the new car park area.

#### **Residential Areas:**

Work with local residential areas is most important and you would appear to keep a good dialogue open with yours. The striving for better signage and open spaces is commendable. An attractive single storey house with porch and over-sailing roof made an impression on the Limerick road for its colourful displays of hanging baskets. There was a most attractive street cottage on this side of the town with attractive flowers planted to its façade. Street houses were generally well maintained. There are a number of new housing estates in the town such as Ard Erin. Do ensure that these are finished to the highest of standards in terms of materials and landscaping. St Fintan's Terrace is a well-maintained estate. The Mountmellick road sports some attractive houses and gardens.

#### **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:**

Mountrath was a pleasure to visit on adjudication day. It continues to make steady progress in the competition.