

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Mountcollins** Ref: **463**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **220**
Category: **B** Date(s): **07/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	31
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	27
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	12
Residential Areas	40	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	24
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	220

Overall Development Approach:

Mountcollins is welcome to the National Tidy Towns Competition 2006. Many thanks for your entry form, map and three year plan for the improvement of your village. It is noted that your committee of fifteen works closely with the local community in working to achieve its goals, and receives support from the Limerick County Council and Limerick Resources.

The Built Environment:

The new parking area of the Community Centre looked well, but the windows of the building need painting. The Church is rather badly weather-stained and the gate also needs attention. The adjoining cemetery was well maintained and noted a planning notice for an extension to the cemetery. Quirk's pub is for sale, and throughout the village many planning notices were observed on some of the older, neglected buildings, and sites, so the Mountcollins is getting ready for change. You have already addressed some of the dereliction problems in the village, and your plan to build a stone wall from Naughton's to Lenihan's is noted. The driving route map was in good condition and well positioned.

Landscaping:

The Community Garden, with its lovely timber fenced and stone entrance and floral displays were admired, as was the new planting of native Irish trees, with under-planting of many rosa rugosa, potentilla, spirea, fescue, hydrangea, laurel, to name but a few in the grounds of the Community Centre. The newly planted grotto area was admired, and should be a wonderful sight when it matures a little more. The display of window boxes and hanging baskets on one galvanized shed looked great, and shows how a otherwise dull outbuilding can be much improved. Some of the private dwellings had some lovely floral displays and one above the grotto was most eye-catching.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The two information boards, one giving details of the Caher river being a breeding ground for the wild Atlantic salmon and the other detailing the wildlife on the Feale and Caher rivers were admired. And your plan for the erection of further wildlife signs is commended as is your work on the spawning beds for salmon and white trout. This adjudicator enjoys hill walking, and looks forward to reading more about your plans to develop a nature trail across the hill.

Litter Control:

Your diligence in this area is paying off and very little litter was noted on the day of adjudication. And well done to all concerned, including the Angling Club. Your litter bins vary in design, but it is noted that you have plans to install more, so perhaps you could consider standardizing them at that time.

Waste Minimisation:

You mentioned that you have put in place a recycling plan with the school, including an education project involving the County Council and Regional Fisheries Board and the planting of an organic garden, and segregated the litter in the clean up. However, this is a new category for 2006, and your committee needs to study the Race Against Waste booklet which gives information on composting, recycling clothes, Green Schools' initiative – which you have plans for, etc. You already have a bring bank – so some waste is being recycled in the village. The Bring Bank was well screened, but the containers needed cleaning.

Tidiness:

Hedge trimming was well underway in the village, but it is important that the cuttings are removed, hopefully to be composted. Weed control is needed by the Community Hall and the calor gas container needs cleaning by the bring bank. There is still an amount of old rusting roofs, derelict buildings, and untidy farm/commercial entrances and yards, rusting gates, all of which need attention.

Residential Areas:

Noted you have been in contact with the Council regarding the erection of signage at Riverside. Some of the private dwellings in the village are maintained to a high standard and many were admired including the stone building, the house by the grotto, as mentioned above, and one lady was noted preparing here pink house for painting. The standard others needs to be improved upon, including the gables.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The road surfaces were mainly good, and some resurfacing had recently taken place. The surface from the Rockchapel approach to the bridge was poor. The sign on the Abbeyfeale approach is obscured and the one on the Rockchapel approach is fine, and the other sign needs cleaning. Your plan to get the County Council to erect new signage is noted. The yellow and black safety markings on the bridges need repainting.

General Impression:

Yes, your village is strung out over a wide area, but is a very peaceful place, and by the amount of new dwellings dotted about the village, a place where many enjoy living. You have done much to improve the village for everyone, but there is still work to be done, but as noted in your submission, your modest plan is definitely achievable.