

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Mountbellew** Ref: **188**
County: **Galway** Mark: **271**
Category: **B** Date(s): **07/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	44
The Built Environment	50	37
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	26
Litter Control	50	31
Waste Minimisation	20	12
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	33
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	271

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for filling out the application form and giving details of work done and future work planned. We are pleased to see that you communicate with your community in a number of ways such as the weekly newsletter, public meetings and newspapers and encourage litter programmes in the local schools. Your submission mentions that a Plan for the Town Square is in progress, we urge you to continue to lobby the Council to complete this. Your application does not mention a development plan, and we wonder has one been developed for the town?

The Built Environment:

St. Marys Church occupies a prominent position on the main thoroughfare of the village and was well presented. Across the road, St Marys National School was proudly displaying its Green Flag. Other buildings that were well presented included: Malooneys Pharmacy, Fahy Opticians, the Hawthorn Bar and Restaurant, P.Kellys, the Malt House, The Square Kitchen, Bank of Ireland and Finnertys. We thought that the redundant pumps at the Market Square should be removed and that there was excessive signage at Kitts. The Both the Holy Rosary College and the Franciscan Brothers Agricultural College were well maintained. You have a number of development projects in the pipeline including the proposed retirement village, new sports complex and childrens play ground. We were impressed with the Coillte Regional Office, the siting and design are so in-keeping with the local surrounds. The new Credit Union building is nearing completion and looks impressive.

Landscaping:

Colourful hanging baskets, planters and tubs are prevalent throughout the village; in particular we liked the hanging baskets on both sides of the Bridge. The graveyard is well cared for. You are active in maintaining green areas and we noted the trees planted at Pine Grove estate. We liked the restored old iron bridge near

the Coillte Office, however we did notice a number of oil drums around the bridge which detracted from the scene.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

We visited the Bellew Riverside Park and viewed the impressive lake and river and were delightfully surprised when we came upon the waterfall. This provides a rich habitat for wildlife and we spied a little field mouse on our walk around! Signposting and mapping the walks would be beneficial and it is good to see that you are in consultation with Coillte regarding this. We should note that we spotted some litter in the River near the Park but we note in your application that litter is planned to be removed from the local river. We also visited the Forest Park, which you are lucky to have in your midst and viewed the restored Old Forge. We feel that you should be attaining higher marks in this category. Perhaps for next year you could liaise with the local school children on a local wildlife project that you could include with your application, this would also give them "hands-on" involvement with the Tidy Towns competition.

Litter Control:

Litter control was extremely good on the day of our visit and this is no mean achievement in a busy centre like Mountbellew. Your promotion of anti-litter awareness programme in the local schools has the effect in assisting litter management.

Waste Minimisation:

More than most centres you have been quite busy this year in relation to this category – well done! We are pleased that you are raising the community's awareness on waste minimisation by way of a public meeting and encouraging local schools and businesses to minimise waste also. You state that composting is encouraged in the village; we would be interested to learn more about this, for example, how many householders are in possession of a home composter or actively compost their organic waste. It is great that you are segregating out plastic bottles and containers for recycling during your litter clean ups. Only a clothes bank was in place on adjudication day and the adjudicator was at lost as to the location of the other glass and can bring banks.

Tidiness:

A number of beer kegs were located on the footpath outside Henrys Bar; we wonder if these could be relocated?

Residential Areas:

The majority of residential properties were well presented. As mentioned last year infill development within the village should be prioritised over ribbon development on the approach roads. The new residential development, Pairc na gCon, gives you an opportunity to recruit new members.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads to the village are well maintained. We have to comment on the magnificent Bobbyjo statue, this is really eye-catching and certainly adds to the Square. The entrance to the GAA pitch (Pairc an Chreagain) is in need of up-grading however we note that you are in consultation with the local club with regard to improving the entrance road, we will await the outcome, hopefully next year. We feel that some of your side entrances and back areas need attention.

General Impression:

We thoroughly enjoyed our adjudication and were impressed by the level of commitment given to the competition that was evident. The Development Association is consistently working hard to maintain the village and we urge you to continue to lobby the Council to complete the plan for the Market Square. You have raised your marks this year due to your efforts and we hope that this will act as a stimulus for further action and securing further involvement from the local community. Well done and best wishes for the 50th anniversary of the competition next year.