

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Mountbellew** Ref: **188**
County: **Galway** Mark: **276**
Category: **B** Date(s): **25/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	44
The Built Environment	50	38
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	27
Litter Control	50	31
Waste Minimisation	20	13
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	34
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	276

Overall Development Approach:

Your adjudicator would like to welcome Mountbellew to the 2008 TidyTowns Competition. The map provided was most useful on adjudication day. With 25 people your TidyTowns Committee is quite large by national standards and this seems to indicate that you have great community support for your work. The adjudicator was pleased to read that you use the Internet to publicise your work for the Mountbellew community. You did not provide a copy of your 3 Year Plan with your entry and perhaps for 2009 you could include this as it gives the adjudicator a great feel for your future vision for Mountbellew. Do remember that the TidyTowns Handbook gives great information and suggestions. Both new Committees and those who have been involved in the competition for some time will find this booklet really useful.

The Built Environment:

The cleaned monument looked really well and it was good to see the progress on your new community building. The Demesne is an attractive area now enhanced by the work that you did on the bridge. The adjudicator looks forward to seeing the final plan for the Square. This adjudicator is of the view that this area needs additional landscaping and perhaps some of any new landscaping might be raised. At the moment there appears to be too much parking in this area to allow the visitor to appreciate the Square. On the Moylough approach the stone building with red doors was admired and the beautiful red brick Bank of Ireland building also stood out. On the Ballygar road one derelict property was noted and perhaps you should discuss this with Galway County Council if you have not already done so. The attractive lettering on The Neale House was admired by the adjudicator. Some projecting signs were noted and these should ideally be replaced using more sympathetic materials and graphics. The presentation of the College was much admired with a good road boundary wall and excellent landscaping inside the gates. The grass strip at the roadside here needed to be cut and one damaged litter bin replaced. The Fire Station across the road with the glass fronted extension was of a similar high standard. The slate (?) hung exterior of the Agricultural College looked a little

disappointing as the surface appears to have weathered in an uneven fashion giving a rather patchy impression. The Catholic Church framed by beautiful tall trees is a beautiful building of simple proportions. This is enhanced by excellent grass areas and landscaping.

Landscaping:

The pruning of shrubs that you carry out must be an unending task. Your new trees were seen and indeed you are lucky in Mountbellew that you have so many naturally occurring trees such as those opposite The Meadows. The hanging baskets at the bridge were admired but the hangers would be improved if painted matt black. An attractive small colourful landscaped building was noted at the turn to The Demesne.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The river and the lake are such great wildlife areas that give you much potential to develop this aspect of your work for Mountbellew. The adjudicator was interested to read of your wildlife programme with the Primary School and you might let us have details for next year.

Litter Control:

The daily emptying of litter bins is a great service to have but an essential one and hopefully this will also apply to your ten new bins. It was noted that agreement was still to be reached on the location for the Bring Centre. This adjudicator is of the view that a high visibility village centre location will probably give the best results in terms of avoiding abuse of the facility. It is vitally important that the units are located on a slightly raised plinth and that they have bollards around the three sides to prevent accidental damage to the units. Finally the site should be landscaped. In that way the Bring Centre can become a feature of Mountbellew. The litter programme in the Schools sounds really interesting and you might provide some detail for 2009. Much litter was noted in the small stream feeding the lake and in the wooded area off the Main Street.

Waste Minimisation:

How did you promote waste minimisation to the Schools as this is a most useful exercise? The planned recycling collection point through the County Council is another good initiative that you have taken in this regard. How are you encouraging composting? The adjudicator is of the view that you should have about two new projects each year and continue those from previous years at the same time. The sponsored recycling project in the Holy Rosary College sounds interesting – what was involved here?

Tidiness:

On the Moylough approach quite a lot of advertising signage was noted along the road on the left hand side and the rusty gates at the Graveyard needed to be painted. At the Museum the Coillte sign appeared to be rotting and needed replacement. The timber fencing at the entrance to The Demesne also needed to be treated.

Residential Areas:

Pine Grove was beautifully presented and you have planted new trees here. This is an attractive open estate spotlessly presented. Pairc nGon was under development when the adjudicator called but the landscaping at the entrance was admired. At The Meadows the very large open space was nicely cut but this area has only four trees and many more are needed. Perhaps a few clumps of trees appropriately spaced might be visually effective here.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The work done on new paths and on your approach roads was looking very well on the day of adjudication. The approach roads had been well cut with well presented grass verges and on the Moylough approach some longer grass remained to meet the needs of wildlife. Approach roads are so important as they offer the first impression of Mountbellew for the first time visitor.

General Impression:

It was a pleasure for your adjudicator to visit Mountbellew for the first time. Good luck with your TidyTowns projects for 2009 when we look forward to visiting you again.