

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Mullinavat** Ref: **401**
County: **Kilkenny** Mark: **230**
Category: **B** Date(s): **18/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	34
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	18
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	11
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	230

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for remaining in the Tidy Towns competition in spite of the difficulties set out in your letter explaining that due to the motorway roadworks it has not been possible to organise a satisfactory entry this year. Your position is well understood, and it has been decided to award the same mark as last year. That being said, on the day of the visit to Mullinavat the village was looking quite well, though clearly not as well as you would like. It did appear that the works might be nearing the end of their intrusive presence and it is hoped that when open the motorway will assist you by keeping heavy traffic out of the village. The following comments are of a merely cursory nature – to keep the ball rolling, so to speak.

The Built Environment:

The Church in its pleasant graveyard was well maintained. The school impressed very much indeed, largely because of its situation in spacious and well-kept playing fields. The Rising Sun tends to dominate the main street, but this is no bad thing because it is so well presented. Of the commercial buildings, Holden Plant Rentals has a decent frontage and respects to streetscape. Some dereliction and vacant premises were noted – The Vat had a sombre look that cast a gloom around its immediate area. The many small houses that make Mullinavat so attractive will be mentioned under Residential (below).

Landscaping:

Small areas of planting here and there were favourably noted, among them the well nurtured hanging baskets on the river railings. There does not appear to be a major landscaping project in Mullinavat, but definitely this would not have been the year to lay one out. Incidentally, the NRA and motorway contractors have a good reputation for landscaping approaches and flyovers and for planting trees: you are probably in touch with them already about their plans as they affect the village.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Walking trails were adequately signposted. The river is a splendid natural amenity and no doubt you will have plans for it next year. Trees are normally considered under this heading: if trees are planted alongside the motorway as it passes along the back of the village you should include a description in your 2009 Wild Life entry.

Litter Control:

There was very little disposable litter in Mullinavat on the date of the visit. Congratulations.

Waste Minimisation:

Your last year's mark is unusually high under this heading so you are clearly on top of this issue, which is going to become more and more important as time goes on.

Tidiness:

A number of poorly maintained verges and weedy kerbsides were seen. A pity that there were weeds and rubble alongside the GAA boundary walls – this can have had nothing to do with the roadworks. Some dereliction was seen; this has quite serious implications and will be mentioned under Residential (below).

Residential Areas:

It is the terraces of small colourful houses in the main street and some side streets that really give Mullinavat its distinctive flavour. If these disappear, then the village will look like any other. Some vacant houses were seen, and some that did not appear to be in good repair. A long hard look in the interests of the conservation of the traditional building stock needs to be taken. In a few villages, such as Stradbally, co Laois, where terraces of pretty cottages had become vacant mainly due to their small size becoming unsuited to modern living requirements, two or three cottages were joined into one, giving single larger dwellings and of course larger back yards or gardens. This has worked very well. It is something that might be considered, but of course needs extensive consultation with residents, tenants, landlords, and the Local Authority. In other cases, where small houses have decayed beyond redemption, or have left open sites, new infill housing in the same style has been very successful.

Glen Crescent was seen to be well presented, with some nice frontage planting.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Paving and street furniture impressed. Now, with the roadworks nearing completion, is the opportunity for the Local Authority to replace old poles and unsightly wires with more attractive lighting standards. The stone river and railway bridges, and stone walls on approach roads, are an attractive feature of the village. The school and Rising Sun car parks were clean and neat on adjudication day. The roadway is certainly resulting in the provision of fine timber fencing in some places.

General Impression:

Mullinavat has always been an attractive village. Now is the moment to seize the opportunity to draw the elements together again. The results of your efforts – which will take time – will be keenly looked forward to. Every good wish for your worthy endeavours.