

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Myshall** Ref: **42**
County: **Carlow** Mark: **274**
Category: **B** Date(s): **24/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	43
The Built Environment	50	39
Landscaping	50	39
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	31
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	274

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Myshall to the 2009 Tidy Towns Competition. This was a first visit to Myshall for this adjudicator and it is one of the most attractive place to visit. Thank you for the completed entry form. Your large committee enjoys good local support and that of the County Council as well. You are very active with monthly meetings and summer weekly outdoor meetings. The local media is being used in a very creative way to get across the Tidy Towns message and your work for the community. Do keep up this momentum from a PR point of view. The visits to the School children twice yearly are also most important and hopefully they have an enhanced view of the importance of the environment. Myshall seems to have been involved in Tidy Towns for about 46 years – what a fantastic record of community dedication! Your vision for future projects is excellent but do try and prepare a 3 Year Tidy Towns Plan for Myshall for the period 2010 to 2012. It will be of great assistance to you. The Village Plan made most interesting reading and thank you for the excellent map, and copies of the Newsletters.

The Built Environment:

The future use of the old Glebe building is indeed a key issue for Myshall and a new use must be found; however, this must be economically viable rather than a financial drain on your small community. Public funding to support the running costs of such a venture cannot be guaranteed into the future especially in the current economic climate. The old village Pump forms a great focal point to the village as well as being symbol of an important aspect of the history of Myshall. On the day of the visit, this area was well presented and the curved Granite wall much admired. The School buildings and the nearby Basketball Court is complimented by mature landscaping. Likewise the Grotto is being well maintained. The Health Centre looked a little dull and would be improved by some landscaping here. The road boundary wall would also be improved if repainted. The old Church is a most beautiful building with some interesting architectural detailing. Interesting to read that it is a scaled down replica of Salisbury Cathedral which this adjudicator has visited. At

the Community Hall the landscaping at the front, now creeping up the wall, helps to soften the impact of this elevation to the car park.

Landscaping:

In your documentation you appeared to be suggesting your interest in landscaping for year round colour and this adjudicator totally supports that view. The objectives that you listed in this section of your entry form for landscaping are excellent and the tubs, and window boxes competition is a great way of encouraging friendly rivalry. Indeed these added much colour to various buildings in the village.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The adjudicator had a look for your fish in the Pond but failed to catch up with them – perhaps the decoy Ducks scared them away! This is truly a most beautiful well presented and peaceful area. The Pond was much admired apart from a little floating litter. Is there any possibility of getting real Ducks to take up residence here? The adjudicator especially liked how this area is linked through to the old Graveyard and the old Church on one side and the Community Centre and car park and other facilities on the other side. An information panel for the old Church might be considered. Is there any possibility of getting the over-shot water-wheel working again?

The planting of wildflowers at The Millennium Park is a great investment into the future colour. Do continue with your plans for the Village Trail and this should include both wildlife and heritage.

Litter Control:

Congratulations on your high ranking in the Litter League and your work for the Spring Clean. Some floating litter was noted in the Pond and around the Bring Centre, though the problem here was not too serious. The rusty skip here looked out of place. Could this be replicated here and screened. The timber fencing here needed to be repainted.

Waste Minimisation:

The Workshop was an excellent initiative and should be repeated annually. You seem to have involved quite a number of agencies in this venture and this is the best approach. The Weekly Green Tips idea is excellent.

Tidiness:

Your proactive approach to tidiness of buildings and businesses is commended, and this approach is often the best way forward.

Residential Areas:

The various estates were visited and in each case the attractive estate name stones were admired. It is great that Residents Groups have been formed in these estates as they have such an important role in TidyTowns. The large Rockery at The Meadows adds so much to this rather pleasant estate that looks out over the beautiful countryside. St Oliver's Crescent appears to be incomplete and nearby St Oliver's Park was presented to a high standard. Sliabh Bawn was quite untidy for reasons that we all understood and, hopefully this estate can be completed without much delay.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

On the Tallow approach, excellent hedging and verges create a great introduction to Myshall. The new lighting, though not seen at night, is a great addition to the village in safety terms alone. The approach from Bunclody needed some attention as the narrow verges at the 50 KPH signs were not cut, while on the Carlow approach some rough verge areas stood out especially in front of the Sliabh Bawn estate roadside concrete wall. On the Borris approach, verges needed just a little more attention.

General Impression:

It was a pleasure to visit Myshall for the first time on a warm June day. Good luck with all your projects for next year when we look forward to returning.