

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Mountcollins** Ref: **463**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **248**
Category: **B** Date(s): **30/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	32
The Built Environment	50	34
Landscaping	50	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	30
Litter Control	50	32
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	248

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome Mountcollins to the 2009 TidyTowns National Competition. Thank you for your completed entry form received from Mountcollins TidyTowns on behalf of your village of less than 1,000 population. Well done on the strength of your committee of 15 and on holding 20 meetings per annum, the level of voluntary commitment is high with this amount of meetings and the involvement of all the village in the clean-up and the painting is a further example of this voluntary commitment. The support of the local Development Association and the County Council is of benefit to the village and the engagement with the school is also positive. The communication strategy used by the committee is worthwhile using local newspapers, meetings and church announcements.

The recommendation of last year is repeated that your Committee should prepare a Three Year Action Plan 2010-2012 for TidyTowns activities in Mountcollins. This plan would help you set Aims and Objectives and establish Targets for each of the three years. The completed plan would assist you in discussions with partner organisations for both, funding and other support, and would be also helpful in discussions with the public. It is suggested that consultation with the public and with the County Council should take place during the plan preparation. There is no need to get a professional to prepare the plan, it could be done by some members of your 15-person-Committee.

The Built Environment:

At the crossroads in the village, there is an old yellow village pump. A relic of by gone days, it has been left fall into serious disrepair. This could be a nice project to take on-board for future years, and if it was cleaned up it would be a nice feature.

Tommy Micks pub was in good condition. Fryer Tuck was also.

The Church looked well, with the grounds kept well. Nice hanging baskets were seen at the boundary wall, and equally nice flower boxes were seen on the church window sills. Two three storey houses opposite the church offer potential for restoration. The Grotto complex is a wonderful display with excellent maintenance of the area and the shrubbery.

In the village centre, the Driving Routes map is in good condition, as is the Post Box and litter bin at the base.

A novel feature seen on the walls of some commercial premises are the historic commemorative plaques reflecting past trades of the locality. These included, An Siuneir; An Chearta-Bill Phil's-An Gabha; An tUmadoir-Bill the Harness.

Mountcollins Community Centre is found on the outside of the village, and the first impression it gives is that it is in need of some work. The building would benefit from some painting, as would the windows.

Some nicely presented town houses are seen throughout the village

The national school building on the outskirts of Mountcollins was nicely maintained, with yellow and terracotta painting. There were 8 well-planted colourful flower boxes to be seen, along with two pots outside the front door. There is a need for safety of course, but the green surround fence was somewhat unsightly. There were further window boxes at the back of the school, and it was good to see the Green Flag displayed. This small rural school is a valuable facility for the Mountcollins Community, and has been awarded two Green Flag awards.

There are some buildings in need of repair and renovation, which if carried out would assist the overall appearance of the village.

Landscaping:

Many individual houses have lovely landscaped gardens including one with an excellent display of old farmyard furniture and a wonderful wheel from a trap.

In the village centre, at the Abbeyfeale side, there was a nicely painted concrete wall and hanging baskets.

Nice shrubs and trees were seen in front of the Community Centre.

Large landscaping area behind the Grotto is a lovely feature, with some nice displays of individual shrubs and flowers to blend into a multi-coloured arrangement. The stone wall that backs the Grotto provides a nice contrast with the colourful flowers. The Fáilte sign in the grotto is another nice addition to this pleasant feature in the centre of the village.

The bridge helps to focus the eye on the Grotto, as it brings the visitor over the narrow crossing over the river and into the town. The landscaped area on the opposite side of the Grotto and before the bridge completes a lovely and attractive area of town. The stone seat and the suspended hanging flower basket enhance the scene.

One particular house had the most unusual landscape feature of the crocodile looking over the garden wall. Opposite was a lovely display of bog oak at the front entrance to the house.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

On the bridge entering the town, there is a very attractive Information Panel on the wildlife associated with local rivers of the River Caher and Feale River, as well as a second sign telling the story of the spawning of the Wild Atlantic Salmon. These salmon travel from Greenland and the Faroe Islands back to the Caher River where they spawn and then die. This is an annual occurrence for spawning salmon.

The sign on the wildlife on the rivers tells the story of the Otter, the Heron, the Kingfisher, the Dipper, Daubentons Bat, and the Grey Wagtail. A lovely exhibit. Your stated wish "Let us all work together to protect their habitat by promoting a clean river system for the benefit of all" is to be applauded. The proposed further work on the river clean-up will benefit the village.

Litter Control:

The village clean up is proving successful and on the day of our visit, the village was generally litter free. It

was a pity to see the only remaining poster from the recent election dumped in the river, below the bridge.

Waste Minimisation:

The Recycling Depot found at the Mountcollins Community Centre is in good condition, clean and litter free with a nice wooden fence. Credit and well done to all associated with the works, which lead to the awarding of two Green Flags to the national school.

Tidiness:

The Grotto area and the area near the church were generally tidy. The approach roads were tidy, as were many of the individual houses throughout. The old water pump painted yellow could benefit from a renovation and repair. The grassed area on the entrance from Tournafulla and surrounded by the red-brick wall looked tidy, but a grass cutting would help. Overhead wires spoiled the appearance somewhat of the village. While it is accepted that it may prove difficult, the idea of having these wires placed underground might form part of you long term plans.

Residential Areas:

The Radharc an Ghleanna housing scheme is an attractive development just next door to the church, with bungalows at the front and two storey houses to the rear. It is well maintained, with each house number engraved on lovely stone plaques depicting scenes of flora and fauna. The street-lighting in the area looks well, as is the paving.

The village is a mixture of older traditional town houses and more modern houses mainly on the outskirts.

Many nice individual signs are seen, with the nice yellow and red cottage on the left hand sign displaying a well maintained garden. Further along this road are seen some nice bungalows with pretty gardens. A nice peach coloured residence had in its nice front lawn a nice stone feature and some attractive bog oak with a bird feature hanging from it.

A nice cul-de-sac of bungalows on the road to the Community Centre was seen, with nicely landscaped gardens.

On the Abbeyfeale road, the entrance sign is in ok shape, it could benefit from some paint, however, but it is a pity to see the flower box empty.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approaching from the Tournafulla side, the 50Km/h signs are visible, as is the bilingual Mountcollins/Cnoc Uí Choileáin sign.

The Ceád Míle Fáilte stone signs, with each word set in its own sign, were a nice feature.

General Impression:

The visit to Mountcollins was most enjoyable for this adjudicator, well done to all associated with the improvements carried out. The river area and the lovely landscaping around the Grotto are an excellent feature. The well maintained school is a credit to teachers, other staff, parents and pupils. The best possible use seems to have been made of a small site. This educational facility is a most vital part of the society of Mountcollins.