

Tidy Towns Competition 2011

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Myshall** Ref: **42**
County: **Carlow** Mark: **282**
Category: **B** Date(s): **07/07/2011**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2010	Mark Awarded 2011
Overall Development Approach	50	43	43
The Built Environment	50	40	40
Landscaping	50	39	39
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	33	33
Litter Control	50	30	31
Waste Minimisation	20	10	11
Tidiness	30	16	17
Residential Areas	40	30	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30	31
General Impression	10	8	7
TOTAL MARK	400	279	282

Overall Development Approach:

Congratulations to Myshall Muintir na Tíre for entering the TidyTowns Competition for 2011. Thank you for your entry, your 3 Year Plan and a special thank your for the photos. Your map was most helpful as it highlighted and named all the locations that had to be visited. Your committee seem to interact meaningfully with the local agencies. The results of the support of the Garden Club are obvious throughout the village. Congratulations to the school, teachers and pupils for achieving Green Flag Status. One would love more information on the 'green themed' poster competition organised with the school for Patrick's Day. It is encouraging for the TidyTowns people that you should find this competition rewarding and wonderful that you say it 'encourages citizenship'.

The Built Environment:

The outstanding building of Myshall is the Church of Ireland Adelaide Memorial Church, the crescent of yews adding reverence to the building, the cemetery and church site. By comparison the Catholic Church is dwarfed in location and design though it too shows its reverence in the depiction of the various saints. The adjudicator loved the cemetery up from Tobar Bríde. It seems to wander on from one site to another and eventually finished up in the Church of Ireland site. The school and Community Centre also look well even if the Community Centre will soon need a coat of paint. The former parish pump is given a pride of place position in the town square. Many of the walls throughout the village are a vital part of the built environment and history of Myshall. It appears as if there has been a walled garden in the vicinity of the Community Centre car park, the brick and stone work being most attractive. Similarly the walls at Tobar Bríde are also in an excellent condition. One would love to see a co-ordinated plan to give the appearance of the village centre an uplift. The childrens' playground is another fine amenity. Well done on the memorial stone to 1798.

Landscaping:

Great use is made throughout the village to brighten up the summer with tubs of marigolds as at the GAA entrance and at the Community Centre car park where the permanent raised bed brings personality to its surroundings. Landscaped areas have been created over many years and the shrubberies are a lovely feature. At Tobar Bríde the whole site is well landscaped but some of the beds need weeding and renewal. The appearance of the village benefits from rich vegetation and mature trees throughout. Millennium Park or Byrne Memorial Park is another tribute to community spirit and to your pride in your village. It is ideally sited by the stream, well maintained and the beautiful walls add the Myshall stamp. The Marian shrine is another tribute to former committees and well maintained by the present committee. One of the highlights of the visit is the wonderful rockery at the Meadows. In your submission you mention encouraging people to grow their own. Well done. That project could also be termed a waste minimisation measure.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The potential for your group in the wildlife section is immense, a beautiful village with many mature trees, hedging, old walls and a stream. One wondered if some of the mown areas of Tobar Bríde could be allowed grow in order to promote wildlife habitats or might be planted with wild flowers. The Heritage Walks sound like an exciting idea. Maybe you would think of combining a heritage and wildlife walk.

Litter Control:

Well done on taking part in the various events in your locality. Competing with other villages helps raise litter awareness in the community. Your regular litter picks are paying dividend as litter levels are low but there is some litter. Enhancement. It is encouraging to read that you have become involved with a Foróige group. Raising litter awareness is vital in the fight against litter.

Waste Minimisation:

The photos let the adjudicator know that the School has Green Flag Status. The Bring Centre is as good as the recycling centre of many big towns. Well done also on your other waste minimisation ventures. Delighted that you have joined greenhome.ie. Membership of this organisation is bound to prompt many new waste minimisation measures in the home. Another website worth visiting on reducing domestic waste is stopfoodwaste.ie.

Tidiness:

The stone walls on the way into town immediately give an impression of care. Great care is taken with weeds throughout the village.

While Myshall presents itself as a tidy village there are elements of its appearance that provide challenges to this appearance. Some of these challenges are difficult to tackle as in the unoccupied buildings. Owners might be persuaded over time to upgrade their fencing. Farm gates are a challenge in places also. But other matters are under your control. The information board at Tobar Bríde needs to be looked after. Likewise the 50 km signs on the Borris road, both need washing.

Residential Areas:

Individual houses are beautifully presented throughout, their front gardens add to the colour and the Myshall story. A number of the houses opposite the Church of Ireland make a great impact on that area. This little village is packed with small estates. It is a joy to arrive in a village in which the individuality of the estates is signalled with a name stone. In all cases these look well and provide a welcome. There are places that might benefit from a tree planting programme as at St Olivers Crescent. The opposite advice is given in the case of The Meadows. Its elevated site commands panoramic views of the countryside and one fears that some trees already planted will obstruct these views. Plant at the lower level along by the road instead.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Immediately one arrives on the Borris or Fennagh Roads one senses the welcome in the care given to grass margin maintenance and the information boards on winning a Pride of Place award in 2007. The steep slope on the Tullow Road is an attractive feature of its area and the trees will enhance that slope in time. As one sweeps into the village from the Bunclody side the views are breathtaking, the yews adding to the picture.

General Impression:

Over the years many people have taken it on themselves to celebrate the charm of this village with major projects. These projects are still honoured to-day. Times have changed. Some buildings are no longer in use. The Tiger left claw marks. New challenges face the present generation of TidyTowns concerned people in the village. With the track record of previous groups in Myshall one has confidence in your group to tackle these problems and achieve a result. Your 3 Year Plan is a good place in which to start. Your aim to enhance the living environment of your fellow residents but still to maintain the character of Myshall is a noble

ideal. Your social conscience is also evident in your Plan: 'to include all members of the community in that effort'. Go n-éirí an t-ádh libh'.