

# Tidy Towns Competition 2012

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Myshall** Ref: **42**  
County: **Carlow** Mark: **284**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **09/06/2012**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2011</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2012</b>
Overall Development Approach	50	43	44
The Built Environment	50	40	40
Landscaping	50	39	39
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	33	33
Litter Control	50	31	31
Tidiness	30	17	17
Waste Minimisation	20	11	13
Residential Areas	40	30	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31	30
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>284</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Myshall to the 2012 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for the completed entry form and colour coded map. Your before and after photographs of Tobair Bhríde included on the accompanying CD were also most helpful as on adjudication day thankfully we only admire the after scenario and sometimes do not appreciate the improvements that have been made by villages. How wonderful to see you really using your 3 year town plan as a working tool. By assessing each years work, as you do, we can really see where your projects are progressing, where difficulties outside of your control are hampering plans and where new initiatives are evolving. It is good to see you using the parish newsletter as such a proactive tool and we hope the call to support your Myshall volunteer day went well for you. Keep up your positive and affirmative approach to organising your works.

### The Built Environment:

This was the adjudicator's first visit to your village and we were charmed by both its setting and the range of buildings and open spaces you have at your disposal. The empty building at the village centre could have the board on the door painted a dark tone to help improve its appearance. The school was again very well presented with such an interesting live willow sculpture in its grounds. Again perhaps you could approach the owner of the abandoned house opposite the school to fill the broken windows with boards which again could be painted a dark tone, to improve its appearance. Even as a short term measure. Or some centres have begun using printed window and door boards to great effect to fool the eye into thinking premises are occupied. This has successfully been done in Monaghan Town so perhaps you could contact the Tidy Town group there to get details on this?

The grotto and the church were very well kept. Good luck with your efforts to address the unfinished estate, an issue facing so many of our towns and villages.

**Landscaping:**

The planters flanking the entrance to the post office were alive with bees, and the pyracantha is an unusual choice for a planter shrub but has so many seasons of interest and much greater value than short lived annuals. It framed the premises beautifully. The planters at the village square looked a little tired. Keep planters in such a focal point well maintained or remove them to a temporary storage area as the struggling planting let the space down. However the hidden gem in your village is the Tobar Bhride Park. This was a delight to find although some temporary fencing at the bridge linking it to the car park will, we hope, be replaced by a longer term solution. The plants to the wall of the car park were also buzzing with bees and perhaps more wall climbers could be established to the community centre to really create a green wall. And what a setting for the playground which was well maintained and with such lovely views to the hills. A picnic table would be a lovely addition here for visitors, as it is visible from the car park unlike the tables at the millennium park which are a little bit more difficult to access for the visitor arriving by car.

**Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The habitat creation as a result of the planting in the millennium gardens and Tobar Bhride was in evidence by the number and variety of birds and plants observed during our walk around the village. Even the decoy ducks in the pond raised a smile. We hope your planned nature walk with the local school children was a success. Perhaps you could expand on the success of this with some night time bat walks or an ever earlier dawn chorus walk. These are low impact ways of adding to the knowledge in the community.

**Litter Control:**

There was no litter present in the core village area so well done in all your efforts with this and the inclusion of your CD with photographs of your volunteers participating in the spring clean was appreciated. We also noted the pieces of plastic attached to the bin at the car park by Tobar Bhride Park. An innovative way to prevent wind blown litter or bins being scavenged by wildlife perhaps?

**Tidiness:**

Once again Myshall presented a tidy appearance. Some areas we felt however needed a little attention. The area to the base of the Carlow information sign at the Myshall Inn was in poor condition with evidence of broken glass. Can this area be repaved with cobbles perhaps or dug out and planted with groundcover shrubs with perhaps a small area to the front of the sign left paved for visitors wishing to view the information? And also the wildlife sign needs to be updated. The boundary to the graveyard and the car parking area opposite were in fine condition and very well presented.

**Waste Minimisation:**

The bring bank at the car park was well used on adjudication day. Your free library is such a simple but practical initiative and well done to all involved and we wish the card recycling project much success also. This has gained you additional marks here. You seem to have very proactive approach to promoting workshops and we wonder did many residents take part in the grow your own workshop in Bunclody. Perhaps building on the free library successes you could arrange a grow your own produce trade day at the end of the summer if any residents have a glut of any particular fruit or vegetable from their garden? Have you also considered holding a seed or plant swap as part of some of your village's activity days as we see you have a Myshall Garden Club? If the use of self seeding or spreading perennials is being proposed in the village common areas then cuttings of these could be taken and sold on to villagers or visitors for use in their private garden areas, and help raise funds for you. Remember that gardens areas are a really important wildlife resource and an important source of food and nectar.

**Residential Areas:**

The works to the block wall at Sliabh Ban were under way at the time of visit so we hope to see this progressed for next year's competition. The name stone at Mountain View was also admired and how well the communal open spaces were kept here, due to the good work of the residents. We thought perhaps there would be space to plant a feature tree at the open space at the entrance to St Oliver's Estates. Done perhaps with the local children as part of your 'take care of your own patch' scheme? It could perhaps be done to mark a significant event locally – to celebrate earth hour or as part of the vintage festival weekend perhaps? Once again the individual homes along Church Road were a delight and added so much to the setting of the village on the approach from Bunclody.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Generally approach roads were well maintained with speed signage clearly visible. However, unfortunately on adjudication day, the hedges on the approach to the village on the Borris Road were being strimmed. As I am

sure you are aware it is illegal to cut, grub, burn or otherwise destroy any vegetation growing in any hedge or ditch during the period from the 1st of March to the end of August. Even when works are being done to roadside hedges please try to ensure that, as best practice, no hedge cutting is done during the nesting season. Talk to you local Authority representative about the schedule of these works.

**General Impression:**

Myshall has an idyllic rural charm and the emphasis you have put into addressing issues in a positive manner is commendable. You have managed to carry out works that complement your rural setting without overpowering or detracting from it. Well done on this. Also the level of community involvement you enjoy is wonderful and this common approach to improving your community is very evident to the visitor. All involved with this year's entry are warmly thanked and congratulated for their efforts and wished well in 2013.