

# Tidy Towns Competition 2012

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Mountcollins** Ref: **463**  
County: **Limerick** Mark: **270**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **30/06/2012**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2011</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2012</b>
Overall Development Approach	50	34	35
The Built Environment	50	36	36
Landscaping	50	39	40
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	31	32
Litter Control	50	34	35
Tidiness	30	19	20
Waste Minimisation	20	11	11
Residential Areas	40	27	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27	27
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>270</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Your adjudicator would like to welcome Mountcollins to the 2012 TidyTowns Competition and your participation is important to the competition. Thank you for your completed entry form. For next year a more detailed map of Mountcollins would be welcome and these are available from the Ordnance Survey of Ireland in Dublin or local offices. Your committee of twelve is extremely active with regular meetings. Indeed your entry is a long one in geographical terms and you have a wide area to cover. You are receiving support from the appropriate range of agencies. It is suggested that you consider adding texting and email to the methods that you use to communicate news of your TidyTowns work for Mountcollins. Thank you for the village plan now coming to an end and it is noted that you have a new plan in preparation. Do make sure that this addresses all work necessary under each adjudication category.

### The Built Environment:

Is there any progress with your discussions with ESB and Eircom on the undergrounding of overhead cables? This is usually an expensive project but a very worthwhile one. The restored Smith's Wheel was noted at the riverside. It is especially impressive how you have recorded the names of those who lived in the village in the past and the key trades of earlier times. Closed buildings are a problem. In respect of any derelict buildings it is suggested that you talk to Limerick County Council to see if they can assist under the Derelict Sites Act? There is an interesting mixture of buildings in Mountcollins, some reflecting village history. Some of the corrugated iron buildings were probably thatched originally. The community centre and car park were extremely well presented and boundary walls freshly painted. The use of the Irish language on signage is required under present legislation and this should be encouraged where appropriate. On signage the Irish language must have the primary role. The church and the graveyard were quite tidy as was the Grotto at the bridge.

### **Landscaping:**

Much good work has taken place in Mountcollins in respect of landscaping and the area of the Grotto was examined with great pleasure. Many individuals have also made great efforts in the provision of window boxes and hanging baskets. Small timber containers on walls added yet more welcome colour. The poles for the hanging baskets appear to be a little too high as the chains for the baskets are unnaturally long causing the baskets to swing. Your adjudicator reminds the TidyTowns Committee that the cutting of roadside banks and ditches in the period 1st March to 30th August is not permitted under Section 40 of the Wildlife Act 1976, incorporating Section 46 of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The riverside area at the bridge has really great potential as an attractive village amenity area. However at the moment it is poorly presented. The old dumper truck and rubbish here should be removed. With proper seeding and the addition of seats and tables this could be a most attractive area. The Bird and Wildlife Garden at the crossroads is a great welcome development as is the Bogdeal feature. Are you monitoring your new bird and bat boxes to see if they are being used? This could form the start of a wildlife survey of Mountcollins and the children should be involved in this. The river walk is a great development in a beautiful area. Is there any progress on the habitat survey mentioned in the 2011 adjudicator's report?

### **Litter Control:**

It was great to get forty volunteers out for the Spring Clean and this says much about the Mountcollins community. The daily monitoring of the Bring Centre was visited from the entry form and this was visited and examined. The presentation here is very good and the screening effective. It is suggested that the screening is extended to hide the white tank. The weekly litter patrols are effective as litter control in Mountcollins was good on the day of the visit. A scattering of litter was noted at some of the closed properties.

### **Tidiness:**

Work on railings fences, gates and poles were seen around the village. The two doors below the GAA sign opposite the graveyard need to be repainted. There are still some gates that need to be painted and some corrugated iron roofs. Do make sure that all health & safety measures are in place before painting of these roofs. On the Abbeyfeale road the entrance to two yards opposite each other need to be screened from public view.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

The scrap recycling project is commended as is the segregation of materials collected at cleanups. Thank you for the carbon footprint report. However your entry states that the footprint has been reduced in Mountcollins but the documentation provided does not support this view. This category is fundamentally about the reduction of the waste produced each year in Mountcollins. This is something to be assessed by your committee for next year. Following that some actions can then be taken to improve the waste generation situation.

### **Residential Areas:**

The new sign at Cabhsa Cois Abhainn was examined and this has been beautifully carved. A sign at Riverside Drive was also seen. On the entrance to this estate the plastic barriers lying on the grass should be removed without delay. They probably belong to the County Council? Some road boundary walls need to be painted on the road up from An Gabha.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Excellent post and rail fencing was admired on the approach to the Grotto. On the Abbeyfeale approach the wire fencing looked a little untidy and the eventual replacement with timber or concrete post and rail might be considered. Some work was needed on roadside banks on the smaller approach roads.

### **General Impression:**

Mountcollins is an attractive village developed in an attractive valley. Good luck with your work in the year ahead when we will look forward to returning to Mountcollins.