

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **MILLTOWN-GALWAY**
County : **GALWAY**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 18-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	37
The Built Environment	40	30	29
Landscaping	40	30	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	22
Litter Control	40	31	30
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	29
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	228	221

Milltown, County Galway

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

It is something of an understatement to say that Milltown is truly remarkable. The planning, the progress over a relatively short period, the fine detail of the various projects in execution, can only be matched in a few other places. One wishes one could halt the stream of traffic passing through on the N 17 and divert motorists to enjoy the work of this committee and community.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Church is beautifully maintained inside and out. The schools within and without the village are well kept. The repairing of the Garda Station was favourably noted. Work was in progress at the time of adjudication on renovating the exterior of the CYMS hall. The several business premises, as usual, looked smart and inviting. The Millbrook gateway is a first-rate example of a project which could be emulated elsewhere. It is clear that the ruined Tenant's Cottage may well develop as a worthy visitor attraction.

LANDSCAPING

This is where enormous effort and achievement is manifest. The sense of history evoked through the plaques and exhibits is quite moving - the Land League, the Famine, the Fight for Freedom all emerge through interesting artifacts judiciously placed on walks and in gardens. It is unnecessary to mention the numerous additions and improvements - all are carefully documented in your answers to the questionnaire; among the most notable seen were the stone seating and the millwheel on the Riverside Walk, the plaques and Pota an Ghorta in the Islands park, the new trees and shrubs. When foliage grows up - for example, on the severely straight boundary beds of the road to the Rural Walk - and an overall softening of edges takes place, the currently pristine nature of some of these developments should merge with the local landscape. The tarmacadam walk by the river has a distinctly towny look which does not appeal to this adjudicator, but this is a purely personal view and marks are given for effort, amenity and tidiness.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The riverine, the pastoral and the sylvan vie for attention here. What seemed like an unusual variety of birds were seen along the riverbank. It was interesting to see a deer farm in the vicinity. Your plans for schools projects, and co-operation with the Western Fisheries Board on River Clare developments, are promising.

LITTER CONTROL

Very little litter was seen. Your practical and educational efforts

are eminently successful.

TIDINESS

This is a tidy village. As prosperity increases, and as businesses expand, hoardings and signs may proliferate at the entrances to the village, as is already happening on the Galway road. This cheapens the achievement, and should be resisted.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Older street houses, as well as more recent homes, are well kept. Some of the former have pleasing floral displays, and the latter have attractive gardens.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Road surfaces are very good, as is public paving and also the paths through the amenity areas. A plaster boundary wall on the main road at the north end of the village might be repainted. (An extensive whitewashed wall further south is very pleasing to the eye, and brings to mind a more rural tradition.) Few commercial yards (anywhere) are as neat as Glynn's. Car parking areas are tidy.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

What is most striking in Milltown is the sheer hard work and planning which clearly goes into this competition. Overkill should be avoided. It must be a very pleasant place to live in, and it is surely much admired by visitors.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (09/08/98)

Milltown is an attractive peaceful village despite the enormous traffic pressure under which it is put by its position on the busy Tuam to Castlebar Road. The approach roads were very neat. However do bear in mind that the hard shoulders should be kept free from weeds. Most buildings throughout the village were fresh, in particular the modern church with its magnificent landscaping and mature lime trees which give a very peaceful dappled quality of light. Indeed landscaping throughout the village was well maintained. The picnic and play area with its fine quality lime stone benches and picnic tables and timber litter bins were particularly admired. Do bear in mind the comment of last year's and indeed this year's first adjudicator in relation to maintaining a simplicity of presentation, try to avoid the temptation to over-prettify. The village pump for example was simply presented. The adjacent very fresh house with window boxes was admired. A sign on the Castlebar Road appeared to be quite flaky and if these advertising signs cannot be removed altogether then they should at least be freshly painted! The timber porch to a house on the Tuam side of the village should be re-treated as it looked quite flaky. The village of Milltown looked well loved on a sunny August day and was a pleasure to visit. In particular its peaceful and

informative riverside landscaped area was a delight.