

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Milltown**

Ref: **54**

County: **Galway**

Mark: **252**

Category: **A**

Date: **11/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	45	44
The Built Environment	40	32	32
Landscaping	40	35	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	26	26
Litter Control	40	36	35
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	31
General Impression	10	9	8
TOTAL MARK	300	252	249

Overall Developmental Approach:

Your submission, with its first class support documentation, was studied with considerable interest. Your mark under the above heading is exceptionally high. Your marking under Buildings, Landscaping, Wildlife and Litter Control is also very high, and, as with other centres in the top grade of the competition, you will find additional marks very hard to come by. A great deal of developmental work was ongoing at the date of adjudication and this was taken into consideration. The work undertaken by this committee, and by the residents and business people of the village, has placed Milltown among the best kept villages in the competition, nationwide

The Built Environment:

The Church, situated half way along the designated area, creates a focus which would otherwise be missing in a linear village; in its pleasant location it exuded a feeling of both dignity and lightness. The community hall, of practical design, and the two major factory buildings, were all well presented and spoke well for their social and commercial purposes as the case may be. The school at the north end of the village was bright and clean, while that at the south end was less so. All the shops and public houses were inviting and well maintained. It was a pity to see PVC surrounds to windows in some traditional buildings, where timber frames and glazing bars should be preferred. The thatched Davis cottage was a fine innovation, its red paintwork complementing the grey of the natural limestone.

Landscaping:

The constant traffic flow serves to inhibit the appreciation of the well kept village street which is in effect the main road - and so it was with rare anticipation that one moved to the amenity park. The tennis courts and the new childrens' play area were spic and span on the date of adjudication. Trees and shrubs planted over the years are now truly making their mark. At the Davis cottage the paths, bridges and watercourses seemed a little fuss) when there were larger and more significant examples of the same thing adjacent.

Impervious plastic sheeting should, if possible, not be evident. Some very thoughtful, indeed subtle, planting was seen in the cottage garden, including fruit bushes. The splendid collection of historical artifacts, and the commemorative slabs, were, as always, poignant reminders of former times, also demonstrating the committee's understanding the continuity of human endeavour.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

There is a necessary overlap between this heading that the one above. The planting of shrubs which nurture bird and insect life was admired. Your tree planting programme is impressive - a copse was seen at the Davis cottage and young broadleaves at the community centre. Weed free hedging was favourably noted. Tree specialists do not recommend the planting of annuals around tree bases. Informational signs for flora and fauna were appreciated, and must also be by your large number of visitors. The Sli na Siainte was walked as far as the Dawross bog and your initiative in encouraging this activity applauded.

Litter Control:

The bring bank in the amenity park was clean. Your achievement in the prevention and control of littering is one of the best in the county. Congratulations.

Tidiness:

You have set yourselves a huge maintenance challenge with so many paths to keep weed free, and most were entirely free. A collection of old pallets and other debris was seen in the otherwise very tidy GAA Park. Dereliction was at a minimum, or was well disguised by painting. A rusty iron roof at Glynn's yard needed attention. In the long term, the removal overhead wires and the poles supporting them would make a big difference. These minor observations apart, Milltown remains a tidy village.

Residential Areas:

The traditional street houses were all kept with a real sense of pride. Individual homes on the approach roads, most with fine gardens contributing to the enjoyment of the scene, were also well looked after. Ribbon development should be avoided, however - and a significant case of avoidance was richly demonstrated in the scheme off the Dunmore road and to the back of the main road. This should have the advantage of consolidating the village centre and of maintaining the sense of community which ribbon development - and also remote housing estates - tend to destroy. The completion of this interesting project will be eagerly assessed when the time comes.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The main through road was well surfaced, but other roads - especially their edges, were rough in places. Good directional signage. Pedestrian lights, perhaps at the church, would be a welcome innovation. It has to be emphasised again that a reduction in traffic, by means of a by-pass or relief road, would be of enormous benefit to the life of the village.

The stone name signs were admired. Stone wall building, as seen particularly at the community

centre, was a tradition continued with excellence.

General Impression:

This is a village where a spirit of initiative and enterprise is very much to the fore. Every good wish for the continuation and completion of your many project

Second Round Adjudication:

It was a pleasure for this adjudicator to revisit Milltown after a number of years. It is a village, which never fails to impress in terms of the dedication and commitment of its Tidy Towns Committee! There are a series of welcome signs on approach roads, which gives the visitor a wonderful sense of arrival to the village. Burke's premises continued to look flaky, which was unfortunate as it is an attractive traditional shopfront. Hopefully it is a situation that can be resolved in the not too distant future! The modern Church looked as well presented as ever with its colourful displays of snapdragons, pansies, marigolds and petunias to its front area. The Garda Station looked very fresh with colourful displays of hanging baskets and the adjacent CYMS Hall was also well presented. The Riverside area and Heritage Park incorporating Clare Walk and new children's playground area was as well maintained and landscaped as ever. The timber pallets had not yet been removed from the GAA yard area. The modern Community Centre in render and stone was very simple and effective in design. The initiative for erecting townland stones is a fine one that extends the impact made elsewhere in the region.