

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Milltown** Ref: **202**
County: **Galway** Mark: **284**
Category: **B** Date(s): **25/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	46
The Built Environment	50	35
Landscaping	50	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	29
Litter Control	50	38
Waste Minimisation	20	13
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	33
General Impression	10	9
TOTAL MARK	400	284

Overall Development Approach:

Your adjudicator would like to welcome Milltown to the 2008 TidyTowns Competition. Thank you for the comprehensive and most detailed entry documentation. The first thing that struck the adjudicator was the extremely dedicated approach adopted to TidyTowns by Milltown. Outstanding also is your close and most productive working relationship with Galway County Council. The idea of having 'road volunteers' is a great concept. Milltown enjoys extremely wide agency support and this is a fundamental reason why the village has done so well in the Competition to date. In organisation terms Milltown is indeed an example for others to follow elsewhere in Ireland. The TidyTowns Seminar held in the village in cooperation with Galway County Council is another example of a great approach to your work. Thank you for the detailed file of photographs and other documents that gave the adjudicator a clear picture in detail of what you have achieved in the past and your vision for the future. Do remember that the TidyTowns Handbook gives great information and suggestions. Both new Committees and those who have been involved in the competition for some time will find this booklet really useful.

The Built Environment:

Many buildings stand out in Milltown and there is a good use of colour here which is welcomed by this adjudicator. The Garda Station needed to be painted including the road boundary wall and this might be considered for 2009. It was good to see work underway on the Church roof and the presentation of this buildings interesting design was very good. Mullarkey's is a good example of colour use in the village and the black and white scheme works well. This was complimented by colourful flower tubs and hanging baskets. The Sheridan's Pub and Restaurant recently painted in late 2007 stands out and the adjudicator admired the lettering especially that on the front elevation. The colours used here work well. The GAA property was impressive and the blue and white colour scheme looked fresh and clean as did the Community Centre. At the School 'The Old School Fields' Limestone slab preserves an important piece of local history. Indeed

throughout Milltown the various Limestone slabs help to give a great sense and picture of the past in the village, and this is so important. Excellent landscaping was noted at the entrance to the Millbrook retail area. In keeping with the rest of the village the presentation at the Playground was exemplary and the black and white concrete post and rail fencing looked for smart.

Landscaping:

The standard of maintenance of all landscaped areas was extremely high and you have many such areas to maintain. Throughout the village the many flower tubs, window boxes and hanging baskets reflected the great pride that the people of Milltown obviously have in the presentation of their own place. You are also most fortunate that you have so much natural landscaping here. Again this year the Park area was impressive and this is a great facility to have right in the centre of Milltown.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Work was progressing well on the Cloondroon Lake amenity area with the car parking and paths in place. The wildlife walk along by the river is a delightful place full of beauty and the many wild flowers add to this peaceful area. The thatched information area provides so much information of great wildlife interest. The Sli Walk is another great amenity that seemed to be very popular locally.

Litter Control:

The daily litter picks are obviously contributing much to the very good level of litter control noted on adjudication day. Some litter was present in the GAA car park and just a little along the riverside walk. Your Schools have done well in the Green Schools campaign and hopefully they will continue to work on his programme with your help. The Bring Centre was exceptionally well presented and the two flower tubs here helped to make a feature of this important community facility. The units were very clean as was the signage and the slightly raised area on which the units sit makes a great difference visually.

Waste Minimisation:

It was good to read that all houses are now segregating their waste materials and that farm plastic that can look so ugly is being recycled. Well done also on getting in 10 new compost bins. Plastic and cardboard is now being bailed for recycling and this is another great initiative. The reusable shopping bags is an imaginative but most welcome initiative. Well done to the Milltown community on their positive actions taken under this adjudication category.

Tidiness:

Tidiness is obviously extremely important to the people of Milltown and the village was found to be extremely tidy on adjudication day. Fly posting was not evident and all signage was clean. The derelict properties that you mentioned in your documentation are certainly problems but you have taken this up with the Local Authority and hopefully they will be able to use the powers available to them to resolve these difficult issues. The village clean up funded by Galway County Council has obviously been of great importance to the village. Hopefully by next year there will be further progress to report on the under grounding of ESB cables.

Residential Areas:

Road boundary walls were clean and this must be difficult given the volume of traffic through Milltown. Really good landscaping featured at the Millbrook housing estate and this estate has developed well since last year.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The townland name signs in English and Irish were much admired and is another good example of your concern with history that is welcomed by this adjudicator. The two main approach roads were excellently presented and the wide margins, fine Limestone walls were complimented by excellent small landscaped areas. Your approach roads do indeed create a great first impression of Milltown.

General Impression:

It was a pleasure for your adjudicator to visit Milltown. Do continue your excellent cooperation with Galway County Council where the partnership approach has been so productive. Good luck with your TidyTowns projects for 2009 when we look forward to visiting you again.