

# Tidy Towns Competition 2010

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Milltown** Ref: **202**  
County: **Galway** Mark: **290**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **16/06/2010**  
**28/07/2010**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2009</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2010</b>
Overall Development Approach	50	46	46
The Built Environment	50	35	35
Landscaping	50	39	39
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	30	31
Litter Control	50	39	40
Waste Minimisation	20	13	14
Tidiness	30	17	17
Residential Areas	40	26	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	33	33
General Impression	10	9	9
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>290</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Congratulations to Milltown Tid Towns for your continued success in this contest. Many thanks for your detailed application form and supplementary information including photos and colourful maps. You seem to be engaged with a very wide variety of stakeholders in the town and this is to be welcomed. Have you considered preparing a three-year plan? This would identify actions under each of the headings and set realistic time frames for their completion. Such a plan shows long-term thinking and maps your route to on-going success.

### The Built Environment:

The Garda station looks freshly painted and is colourfully decorated. The CYMS building looks really well and has a very particular architectural style. 'Mullarkey's' is very well presented and is a strong vernacular building in the heart of the village. The 'Dick Dowling' cottage is a wonderful heritage feature although the gardens appeared slightly neglected. Cherry laurel should be avoided as it is an Alien Invasive Species (see [www.invasivespeciesireland.ie](http://www.invasivespeciesireland.ie)) and is of no value to wildlife. The old farm machinery is a wonderful reminder of days gone by. The Famine pot is a wonderful heritage feature to have in your park. 'Finn's' bar and restaurant is superbly presented. The old pump also looks great.

### Landscaping:

Landscaping in at the town centre looks very well with a combination of flowers and trees for year-round effect. Planting around the church is very effective. Landscaped areas along the river are beautiful and lend an extremely tranquil air to this location.

### Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Clare river walk will be a fantastic amenity. The SAC is among the most important sites for conservation

in Ireland and so the preparation of the 'appropriate assessment' was important to ensure that important habitats are not damaged during the course of this project. Do not neglect wildlife habitats elsewhere in the town e.g. hedgerows, as these are also important. Preparing a wildlife plan is the best way to develop under this heading. Your survey of the Clare river should be a corner stone of a town-wide survey. Actions over a five-year period can then be set to enhance habitats and raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity to our lives. The wildlife information board is very good although the posters are a bit faded. Perhaps you could get new copies from Notice Nature and the IFA.

#### **Litter Control:**

It is acknowledged that you do not have the material support from Galway county council that you once had. This will put extra pressure on your existing volunteer base. How do you raise awareness of this issue in the community beyond the school? The new litter bins are an excellent addition. The car park around the bring bank was spotless – well done! The green bottle bin was full and this forced people to leave bottles on the ground. Litter control was generally to a very high standard although some litter was observed in the car park of the Mill Brook commercial area.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

Congratulations to Milltown National School on the award of its first Green Flag. This is a wonderful achievement and an example to the whole community. You are making great in-roads on the recycling front but remember that recycling is only the third best option after reducing and reusing. How are volumes of waste being reduced in your town? The town is very spread out – do you do anything to encourage cycling?

#### **Tidiness:**

Well done on staying on top of fly-posting. This is an increasing problem across towns in Ireland. Have you considered working with Galway county council on traffic calming measures in the town? Traffic cones at CYMS should be removed unless serving a particular purpose. The village centre is indeed very tidy. Bins are well maintained and no unsightly advertising is to be seen. Signage is clean and well maintained. Working with ESB to put cables underground is a most worthwhile endeavour. There was some cluttered advertising at the entrance to the Mill Brook estate. The car park beside Sheridan's shop has an untidy air with traffic cones and loose cables.

#### **Residential Areas:**

Homes throughout the town were all presented to a very high standard. The Mill Brook estate has beautiful homes but is lacking in soft landscaping. Some native Irish trees planted here would be of great benefit and would also attract birds. Houses on the Dunmore road looked very well.

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

The Tuam approach road is extremely well kept and the welcome signs here are an excellent introduction to the town. The tennis courts and playground are immaculate and fine amenities for your village.

#### **General Impression:**

Milltown is a beautiful town that this adjudicator thoroughly enjoyed exploring. You have reached a very high level in the competition and this makes winning points ever more difficult. Continued innovation is always required along with the evident dedication and hard work that clearly you put in. A three-year plan is the best way of setting out this framework. Best of luck!

#### **Second Round Adjudication:**

On a visit to Milltown your 2nd Round adjudicator was immediately impressed by the attention to detail in the presentation of the village. Directional signage was neatly washed and colourful planting was to be seen in so many diverse locations. In this regard the planting at the base of poles used for signage was especially noted. The landscaping at the Catholic Church was especially admired and this works well with a carefully chosen colour scheme. So often importance of the blend of planting and artificial paint colours is forgotten. The field gates in Milltown have been painted and are now an attractive village feature. Planting along the top of the stone wall at the bridge was admired. On the approach roads the fine Limestone walls are a key feature of Milltown. The River walk was visited and enjoyed. Indeed this area seems to have recovered extremely well from the flooding of November 2009. Your Committee has done much excellent work to preserve the history of the area and this is a most important aspect of TidyTowns. It was a great pleasure to visit Milltown where there is a great feeling of community commitment to TidyTowns.