

Tidy Towns Competition 2016

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Milltown** Ref: **202**
County: **Galway** Mark: **318**
Category: **A** Date(s): **14/06/2016**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	47	47
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	39	39
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	47	47
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	36	40
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	19	20
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	63	63
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	28	28
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	33	34
TOTAL MARK	450	312	318

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Milltown is more than welcome to the SuperValu National Tidy Towns Competition 2016; thank you for the completed application form, plan and map all of which facilitated the adjudication process in addition to the covering letter. What a relief it must be to the community to have their village back to themselves once more with the addition of the improved infrastructure! It must be said however that during adjudication the through traffic did not seem to slow down at all through the village, what must it have been like beforehand? The committee of 14 members plus volunteers is an enviable sized group and the fruits of their labour are there for all to experience. Links with supporting bodies and agencies are healthy and fruitful and good use is made of social media in organising the Tidy Towns task. There is evidently a strong community spirit at work in Milltown.

Built Environment and Streetscape / An Timpeallacht Thógtha agus Sráid-dreacha:

Public building such as the church the HSE premises and the Community Centre are presented to a high standard as indeed are most buildings within the village, The roadside facade of the Ryan's premises could be improved . The large vacant premises located across from Glynns Hardware will hopefully see reuse shortly. Burkes appears to be vacant also in addition to a premises beside the church. It is good to note that the overhead wirescape within the village is insignificant and does not diminish the visual amenity of the streetscape although the pole & cables at Finn's are unsightly. The streetscape of Milltown is greatly enhanced by the presentation of street furniture in general and signage in particular.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Flower displays are colourful and profuse throughout the village and beautifully complement permanent planting. The small identification plaques on trees are an excellent way of promoting awareness. Newly planted trees at the northern end of the village and hedgerow along the Dunmore Road are noted and will facilitate biodiversity as they mature. 1000 new trees planted to date is an impressive number by any standard, no doubt they are native species; the same can be said of the 200 beech slips. The entrances to Milltown must have been a wonderful sight in the Spring with 1500 daffodils in bloom. All green areas noted enjoyed excellent maintenance during adjudication. The Heritage Park is a beautiful oasis next to a very busy thoroughfare.

Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fiadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádúrtha:

It is good to note the signage and posters relating to wildlife in your Heritage Park and along the beautiful Clare River Walk this is an excellent way of increasing awareness of wildlife habitats. Congratulations on the flood controls delivered. The Bee Keeping talks to the schools by a visiting Bee Keeper is an excellent initiative and the

bird survey, information sessions and demonstrations are equally impressive as are sessions on all aspects of fishing; congratulations also on the Salmon Spawning development. The entrance to the GAA grounds is excellent and enhances the streetscape, the grounds themselves enjoy good maintenance. An outdoor gym and additional play equipment might be an appropriate addition to the Heritage Park and Riverwalk. Hopefully the 200 new Beech slips sown along the river walk will survive to maturity.

Sustainable Waste and Resource Management / Bainistiú Acmhainní agus Dramhaíola Inbhuanaithe:

The recycling point is well located and features good finger post signage, maintenance here is to a high standard of presentation. The Food Waste Prevention Programme has been a great success given your statistics of food prevention waste over a three year period in Milltown. Both the pupils and teachers of the two schools are to be congratulated on their success in the Green Flags initiative. The range of projects engaged in under this heading is welcome and it is good to note that all sectors of the community are involved.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Litter control is excellent and there was no evidence of dumping. The site with high mounds of road chippings was noted but was not untidy. Another site with building materials was noted in Millbrook, no doubt all traces will be removed upon completion of work. Cardboard boxes were noted within the curtilage area of the Furniture / Electrical premises on the northern entrance to the village. Curtilage areas of industrial premises at the northern end of the village could be improved in some instances. Well done to the children of the Milltown National School for their participation in the National Spring Clean. Regular litter picking activities are noted along with weeding of kerbs. The on-going Gum Litter Campaign is notable.

Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:

The majority of residential properties enjoy good maintenance and a number of gardens were admired. All roadside boundary walls should be maintained freshly painted / cleaned where appropriate due to heavy volumes of traffic and dust. Also where possible roadside areas to boundary walls should be grassed or resurfaced, A number of properties at the northern end of the village could be improved to their roadside boundary. Common green areas are being nicely maintained, the overall presentation in this category is excellent.

Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:

Road and footpath surfaces throughout are good and new / refurbished footpaths are favourably noted. As noted above street furniture looks well. Grassed margins are being nicely managed, some stretches for pollination. Natural stone walls along approach roads to Milltown are attractive however capping stones at the southern entrance are inappropriate while those on stretches of stonewall towards the northern end of the village are suitable. Grassed areas along the outer edge of footpaths are a nice touch for visual amenity.

Concluding Remarks:

A tremendous amount of work has been undertaken by the Milltown community for which they ought to be proud. The quality of life for residents and amenity opportunities for visitors has been significantly increased.