

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 15-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	35
The Built Environment	40	29	28
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	21
Litter Control	40	30	28
Tidiness	20	16	14
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	28
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	221	210

Milltown, Co. Galway

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your detailed report on your activities completed since last year, your Development plan 1997-2002 and the comprehensive details in the entry form. Your efforts to date are to be commended, noted and visited, your proposals for the next five years are to be commended and good luck in the future with the competition.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The built environment in the village is very good with well presented properties. The school looked well with its fine array of flower boxes, as did all the properties in the village. The car park and courts area looked well. However the Garda Station requires attention and work was ongoing at the house near the Church. Your efforts with derelict properties and sites is impressive.

LANDSCAPING

Extensive landscaping is in evidence throughout the village and your river walk is impressive, it is noted on the latter half of the walk that the wild landscaping planting is to be continued on the river side of the walk amongst the stones and rocks. The landscaping improvements at the rear of the Church are noted. Your conservation and maintenance programme of shrubs and trees throughout are noted. Where bare, blank or large plastered walls occur, planting of creepers should be considered, two areas where this applies are: side/rear of premises at intersection of Dunmore road/main road and the front section of Glynn's larger commercial premises on the main road.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

You are very lucky to have such a natural amenity as the River on your door step, with the numerous hedgerows, open spaces and wildlife habitats surrounding the village which you are certainly endeavoring to maximise.

LITTER CONTROL

There was little evidence of litter on adjudication day, due to your location on a very busy road it is important that litter is monitored, especially at the car park.

TIDINESS

Overall the village looks tidy and neat and your weed control programme appears to be working.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The maintenance and presentation of residential properties is good and the efforts of the community are obvious.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads look very well, however, watch tall grass behind stone walls. The stone walls, flower beds, shrubs and trees on these roads look very well and welcoming. The large bar sign on the Galway approach road into Milltown should be removed as it looks tatty. The developments on Davris road look well. The repair to the footpath at the public telephone is noted. The long streetscape nature of the village might lend itself to lamp post style units on the footpath, capable of holding plants/shrubs. Providing a continuity aspect to the village as one walks or drives through Milltown is important and, perhaps the Committee might consider this suggestion and get advice from an expert in Town planning and design, or consult with your local authority.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Milltown is progressing well in the Competition. Tidy Town Committees need to keep focussed on what has been achieved and maintain that standard and at the same time go forward and continue the hard work in improving even further their Village or Town. It is not easy but if a community continues to co-operate and work together as it would appear this village does, it is well on the way. Good luck.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (6/8/97)

The list of work carried out over the 1996 - 97 period is indeed most impressive. There is clearly great enthusiasm and commitment to the enhancement of the village. As a cautionary note however take care not to over prettify the village which can lead to visual disharmony and clutter. We acknowledge the huge effort put into the flower displays but it is believed that it is not always appropriate or visually necessary to plant at the base of trees. Planting can be used to great advantage in strategic locations rather than evenly applied throughout. Similarly every effort must be made to avoid cluttering shopfronts with advertising. Glynn's and Centra carpark was relatively neat for an open forecourt area - it is suggested that permanent tree planting on the pavement in lieu of tubs would be appropriate. Commendably litter was not a problem during our second visit. All grass was well mown. The well built dry stone walls, as on the righthand side of the Galway approach, were particularly admired.