

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **MILLTOWN-KILDARE**
County : **KILDARE**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 18-07-97

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 1997 | Mark Awarded 1996 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 33 | 32 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 24 | 24 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 28 | 27 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 19 | 16 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 28 | 27 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 14 | 14 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 23 | 22 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 28 | 27 |
| General Impression | 10 | 7 | 7 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 204 | 196 |

Milltown, Co. Kildare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your completed entry form and map which were helpful during the course of adjudication. Thank you for your plan, which outlines a number of interesting proposals. In particular, the adjudicators would like to wish you well in the development of your canal walk, and the renovation of Mill Lane. Also, it would be fantastic in the long term to see the renovation of the old mill down by the canal. Congratulations are due to the voluntary commitment and effort in maintaining the verges, open spaces, shrubs and flower beds throughout Milltown this year. You have a very good developmental approach, try to work on improving one or two key buildings.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

It was noted that the Hanged Mans Arch had been newly painted and has a new shop front, well done. Try to upgrade the sign next to the building for next year. The school grounds were very well presented this year, as was the church. However, at the Jehovah's Witness Hall, weeds were evident on kerbing and the gravelled area outside it - try to improve on this for next year. Also, try to improve the car park of Milltown AFC and cut the grass around the perimeter of the fence.

LANDSCAPING

Milltown was very well presented under this category this year. The approach road from Kildare had an excellent presentation; well done in this regard. The well is a nice feature. The grassed area by the bridge was also well presented this year. The flower tubs by the school were looking well at time of adjudication and a good effort was made by the residents park also. Grassed areas were also well maintained. Overall, a good presentation.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Conserving nature is a new venture for many towns and can appear daunting at first. The adjudicators recognise that environmental programmes can take time to get up and running and even longer to assess their success. This section of the competition requires an involvement of all groups, including schools in the village. The emphasis is on the conservation and enhancement of wildlife habitats and the environment. Woodlands, rivers, ponds, hedgerows, open spaces, graveyards and walls are important habitats. The committee needs to identify the habitats in their area and then determine the appropriate actions to conserve and enhance these habitats. Guidelines in the Tidy Towns book offer other suggestions as to the type of initiatives you might undertake. Is there a local wildlife expert, or a member of the community with experience in this area, that your committee can draw on? In preparing an environmental programme for the village, there should be a year-round emphasis on environmental protection and promotion involving all

members of the community and providing access for all. The next step is to identify what habitats are in your area - are there woodlands, wetlands, grasslands, or other habitats such as urban spaces, cemeteries, walls etc. Prepare a survey and map, showing the areas of wildlife importance and areas of future importance, e.g. school grounds and gardens, derelict sites etc. Other steps involved in the preparation of the environmental programme for Milltown would include identification of the flora and fauna in the area, preparation of a wildlife management plan as part of the area development plan and identification of the work to be carried out including conservation projects, wildlife gardens, areas of conservation, access, tree planting, information areas etc. This must be carried out in sympathy with the local landscape and must not be overwhelming visually, or environmentally. In this regard, Milltown has important habitats that present great opportunities for developing wildlife. In particular, the canal and Pollardstown Fen, although outside the area, is of significance to Milltown. The adjudicators would like to commend the development of the canal walk.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control throughout Milltown was very good this year, with very little litter evident at the time of adjudication. The one area where litter was evident, and more emphasis and vigilance should be applied to this area, was at Milltown AFC, particularly along the entrance. Try to work on this for next year.

TIDINESS

Also, a very good presentation was noted under this category this year. However, graffiti was noted on the entrance into Milltown AFC - this is an area that is often frequented by young people, and efforts will have to be made in terms of improving this area for next year. Otherwise, a very good presentation was noted, with well painted buildings litter free paths and well landscaped areas.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Milltown Park was an excellent presentation this year, with well landscaped grounds and no litter in evidence. Well done. Fenview Heights was also well presented and litter free. The park to the rear of the Jehovah's Witness Hall was also excellent. The adjudicators also noted very good individual efforts throughout, particularly between Fenview Park and the Milltown Inn.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

On the approach road from Kilmeague, the grass had been neatly cut back; well done. Hedges had also been trimmed on the left hand side. The approach from Newbridge, was also very good this year; however, no nameplate was noted (unless it was further out). Approaching Milltown from Kildare, there was an excellent presentation, particularly at the junction and the adjudicators would like to commend the effort that has taken place here. The road had also been resurfaced at the time of adjudication. Try to replace the Milltown sign. Overall, a good presentation.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The adjudicators enjoyed their visit to Milltown. It is quite obvious that there is very good voluntary effort and a good co-ordinated community spirit in approaching this competition. You are continuing to make further improvements and the adjudicators commend the efforts to date.