

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 26-07-98

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 1998 | Mark Awarded 1997 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 32 | 32 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 29 | 29 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 30 | 29 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 17 | 17 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 35 | 34 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 17 | 17 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 21 | 20 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 26 | 25 |
| General Impression | 10 | 8 | 8 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 215 | 211 |

Milltown, County Monaghan

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your completed questionnaire and map, they were very helpful. The "Memories of Milltown Past", in response to last years adjudicators request, was interesting, and a step towards preserving the memories and history of the area. Your excellent partnership with local bodies, businesses and the community is admirable and showing great effect. Do take note of the Overall Development Section in the competition notes, as you are now requested to include a proposed long term work programme for the village as part of the competition entry. A simple and concise 3/5 year plan outlining achievable targets for the committee, will help focus your work in the future, as you progress in the competition.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The presentation of both commercial and private premises in the village, was once again excellent, well maintained and presented. The old red brick house past the bridge needs some attention. The screening and landscaping at the mill was very effective. If it could be continued in some way around the back of the mill, it would also screen the machinery and lorry parking area. The adjudicator noted the two areas the committee highlighted as problem areas.

LANDSCAPING

The landscaping and presentation of the village was most attractive and is an excellent advertisement for the hard work of all concerned. It also demonstrates the enthusiasm and commitment of the community and committee for their lovely village. Both the landscape features and trees on the approach roads were well cared for, and attractively presented. Trees throughout village were well chosen and maintained. The flower beds were very attractive, with a good mix of colour and content to last the whole year round. Colourful tubs and hanging baskets, and well presented street furniture also enhance the village area. The new feature beside the bridge was also noted.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

While the river itself is your obvious focus in this area, there are still opportunities for further suitable developments. There may be a possibility of developing a small nature area or trail beside the riverbanks, incorporating some open green and meadow areas, trees and hedgerows, wild flower beds and nesting sites. The committee has a role in maintaining the natural environment within the village. Work with a local wildlife expert and relevant local bodies to develop this further. Your lovely ducks and the committees appreciation to their keepers is also noted.

LITTER CONTROL

One single piece of litter was all that was evident on the day of adjudication. The committee and general community's vigilance in this important area is to be highly commended. Bins were evident and were well presented and maintained.

TIDINESS

The overall impression was one of a very tidy and neat village, involving a lot of hard work and care by the general community and committee. The attractive landscaping and well maintained premises contributed to this impression. The river itself was also very clean.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

With the odd exception, the houses throughout the village, were beautiful presented, with attractive hedges, lawns and colourful flower features. The products from the Greenfinger Garden Centre and the large pile of compost outside it, are obviously put to good use by many of the green fingered residents in the village.

ROADS STREETS AND BACK AREAS

All the approach roads were well maintained, tidy and clean . Nicely faced hedges and neat verges were also noted by the adjudicator. The entrance and forecourt at the E.S.B. Sub-station also needs some attention to improve its presentation. The bridge and area around it also looked well on the day of adjudication.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Another excellent performance from Milltown this year. The hard work and enthusiasm of the committee and the community is admirable. As stated last year, attention to detail and maintenance should be the priority in your future efforts. Well done to everyone involved.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (06/08/98)

Milltown Residents Association and Tidy Towns Committee is obviously a very hard working one. The village created a good impression on second adjudication day. Of particular note were the green spaces at the bend on the Monaghan Road and the landscaped area clustered at the base of the telephone mast. Colourful floral displays of flower tubs and hanging baskets were apparent throughout the village. Some of the houses were extremely well maintained with magnificent gardens and the approach roads were generally well maintained, giving a neat weed-free appearance. The very fresh sign beneath the overhanging beech tree on the Tydavnet side of the village was

particularly admired. Perhaps yard areas could be more successfully screened from public view, for example that to the Mill and the entrance area to Neeson Brothers opposite. Perhaps the concrete post and wire fence to the former could be replaced with a more natural barrier such as a beech/hawthorn hedge or stone wall. However, generally the village created a good impression on second adjudication day.