

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **MILTOWN**  
County : **KERRY**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 06-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	33
The Built Environment	40	29	28
Landscaping	40	28	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	24	25
Tidiness	20	11	11
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	25
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>195</b>

## **Milltown, County Kerry**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

The adjudicator notes that just 8 people are running the Milltown Tidy Towns programme. Try to get further local support for your good work. Milltown is a busy town with a lot of through traffic which adds to your work load. Progress in the competition will be dependent on everyone working towards the same ends. With this in mind you should prepare a "3 /5 Year rolling Tidy Towns Work Programme". This programme should have the support of the community, local groups, the County Council and other agencies. It would therefore guide your Tidy Towns actions for the next three to five years. The Work Programme should detail the Tidy Towns objectives to be achieved by your committee in the years ahead. The preparation of such a Plan which is updated annually is now an important aspect of the Tidy Towns Competition. The new Tidy Towns Handbook, which has been issued by the Department of the Environment and Local Government to all Tidy Towns Committees, is a highly useful document which will be a great help to Tidy Towns Committees. It is divided into a series of seven Action Sheets which together cover all aspects of the Competition. It might be most useful for your committee to run a series of seminar evenings based on the contents of this Tidy Towns Handbook. It is most encouraging to see that you are working with FAS, the County Council and community groups.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The built environment in your town is what contributes in a significant way to the overall character of your place. This includes the buildings, public areas, streets, side lanes and car parks. Any potential threat to any one of these threatens in a serious way the overall character of your town. Therefore the standard of even the smallest improvements in your town must be in keeping with the overall character of the area. Some of the threats could include the use of PVC windows instead of timber ones especially in historic buildings, the use of varnished timber instead of paintwork and the removal of traditional plaster on originally plastered stone buildings. Work on the Community Hall is noted. On the Tralee approach some properties on the left hand side are in need of painting, and on the Killarney side the long wall of the retirement home needs similar attention. There are some fine buildings in Milltown which include the fine cut stone Catholic Church. The Mean Scoil makes excellent use of differing colours on different buildings. The landscaping here is good also. There are a number of derelict buildings in the town of which you are aware. Try to get permission from the property owner to white-wash external walls, windows could be boarded up and painted matt black. In this way the original derelict property can become a feature of your village. Properties in Milltown generally make very good use of colour and this is welcomed. A small building near Herlihy's close to the bridge needs to be painted and doors replaced.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Good landscaping was noted on the Tralee approach road. However

the long dead grass below the low stone wall on the left should be removed. The flowers here which spell out the town name are attractive, but probably require a lot of attention. Many properties have provided colourful window boxes which are somewhat of a feature of Milltown. However be careful not to overdo this aspect of your floral presentation. The planting and trees in the Square look well. However it is a pity that this area has become a small car park. The vehicles parked here obscure your good landscaping efforts. Have you considered having the Square pedestrianised and paving this area using a cobble-lock system. This could allow access through to the housing estate at the rear.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Your river area is potentially attractive and important also for wildlife. Try to develop further amenities which will encourage wildlife to your area. Your first step however is to identify the species which inhabit any such areas. Wildlife can be encouraged by the planting of native berry producing trees and shrubs. The provision of bird and bat roosts and nesting sites in any old buildings might also be considered by your Committee. Make sure that any wildlife areas to which the public have access are properly signposted. Remember the access needs of people with disabilities. The development of these amenity walks and nature trails will add greatly to you area in the years ahead. Has your Committee considered the erection of some information plaques about the wildlife to be seen in the area?

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Some litter was observed in Milltown - on the Killarney approach, near the School, on the road to the refuse dump, by the river, and in the Square by the estate entrance. In general, litter control was quite good.

## **TIDINESS**

The pile of concrete blocks on the left on the Tralee approach should be removed as soon as possible. A clean up in the area of O'Carroll Engineering is desirable and the grass at the foot of the concrete wall should be removed. The area of the old garage by the river bridge also needs attention.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Attractive gardens were noted on the Killarney approach, some with very fine mature trees and shrubs. Overall residential premises were well presented as is the estate off the Square.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

On the Tralee approach the very wide verge on the left needs attention. Putting this area into grass is a possibility. If you do this then do not cut it very low each time. Leaving it neat but slightly longer will be of great benefit to wildlife. On the Killorglin approach road the wall at the graveyard needs to be painted as do the 30 MPH speed limit poles.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Milltown has the potential to make further progress in the Competition but the litter difficulties must receive some additional attention. Well done on all your good work!