

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 12-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	33
The Built Environment	40	24	25
Landscaping	40	29	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	20
Litter Control	40	29	29
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	202	207

Milltown, County Kildare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you very much for the completed entry form, however, there is still a need for a three to five year development plan. At present information is only based on what is contained in the entry form. However, the three to five year plan should provide both short term and long term goals and should be presented as a separate document with plans indicating what is done during each year. This helps in the assessment and the adjudication process. Three marks have been lost on this category of scoring, however, it should be a short term drop in marks until the development plan is presented. The community is very small and thus efforts throughout the town are really quite out standing.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The village is quite small with few major buildings and as such the presentation becomes quite prominent. As with last years notes the school requires a renewed image though this may be through painting, it should also take into consideration other external work such as planting or repairs to the ball catching mesh barrier running along the school boundary wall. The Hanged Man's pub is a definite improvement to the area around the bridge and the colours are strong. Perhaps the sign beside the pub could do with a bit of repainting. The church looks fine and the plaque on the house entering the property has an interesting dimension to houses and the purposes they were built for.

LANDSCAPING

The canal is one of the major amenities to this village and looked a very desirable retreat on the hot day the village was being adjudicated. The overhanging tree sets the space off as to the casual but well maintained grass spaces beside the canal. The monkey puzzles throughout the village were of great stature and provide an interesting dimension to plant selection. It is a pity that two of them are planted underneath power lines as these trees cannot be pruned in the upper branches. Perhaps discussions with the utility board to move these wires may protect these trees in the future years.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

As you state the village is on the eastern side of the roaring Celtic tiger and perhaps some type of plan should be developed to integrate yourselves with its habitat. This wildlife category is important as it can redirect the future

image of the village. Of note are the significant number of crimson king maples planted around the village and though they have a different colour to most native trees, they will seem to be quite alien in future years. This wildlife component is about the changing perceptions and the incorporation of those perceptions so that a sustainable environment is being developed for future years. The development plan that you present must make some serious consideration on this aspect.

LITTER CONTROL

The village has a high control of this aspect though the canal did contain boards of Styrofoam.

TIDINESS

The general upgrading and maintenance being placed on various structures throughout the village demonstrates a committed plan and establishes this village has quite a high standard within this category.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Fenview needs to be addressed with some creative management of the space. There is an overbearing amount of urban symbols for such a small rural collection of buildings. Millview Estate is quite pleasant but again both estates should be considered as having a shared theme. The trucks associated with the entry areas into both of these residential places do have an impact on the visual presentation but perhaps this was a short term issue only during the day of adjudication.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The entry signs to the village need cleaning, the flag poles at Millview were of good colour and the plantings at the base were pleasant in general entry roads leading into the village have a pleasant relaxed character. It is worth pointing out that the committee should not consider placing flower beds in these road margins but should solely concentrate on places at the centre of the village. This is so as to maintain the context of the rural environment into the central junction.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The village is neat and tidy and relies much more heavily on the rural environment than on the built environment as such any development by the committee should emphasise this connection and enhance the links to the surrounding environment.