

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **MILFORD-DONEGAL**
County : **DONEGAL**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 06-07-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	--
The Built Environment	40	22	--
Landscaping	40	23	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	11	--
Litter Control	40	25	--
Tidiness	20	13	--
Residential Areas	30	18	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	--
General Impression	10	5	--
TOTAL MARK	300	162	--

Milford, County Donegal

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Whilst there was no major development work in progress on adjudication day, there was evidence that work is taking place. No development plan for the town of Milford accompanied the application. This is a great pity, the act of creating a plan would help to focus attention on what the main objectives are and ways of achieving them. For example, addressing routing all overhead cables underground, banning car parking on the main street altogether, utilizing existing car parking facilities, a plan for the refurbishment and reuse of all derelict buildings and back areas currently overgrown.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The streetscape is mixed. Many of the commercial buildings are well maintained, but a number need upgrading. Also there are a number of derelict buildings, which need attention. Some of these have huge potential such as the old stone building across from the Roman Catholic Church, which if refurbished and in use would enhance the town center streetscape. Because buildings on the main street run down a roadway on a steep hill, both the main street itself and pavement areas in front of shops would benefit from being kept clear at all times to create better feelings of space. Many of the older buildings have arched openings into back areas in disuse/overgrown etc, these areas have huge potential to create open areas for public use, which could be planted and landscaped (including play, street markets etc). An overall plan for street furniture would be highly desirable. For example, lighting, signage, seating, planting etc

LANDSCAPING

Most of the individual gardens of houses particularly on the outward roads are well landscaped and maintained. Tree planting, maintenance of hedgerows and grass verges on the outward roads is good and makes the approach to the town most attractive. It was noted that the new estate in the town is making good provision for green areas, with an attractive stone wall entrance. The new school and civic buildings looked well on adjudication day

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Dumping of litter was noted in the stream beside the Roman Catholic Church on adjudication day. Identifying possibilities and setting them out in a plan with specific goals and ways of achieving them is necessary to develop the town's potential in this regard. Creation of open areas in overgrown and disused back areas, development of the stream area further, by providing access/creating walks etc are just two examples.

LITTER CONTROL

Good levels of control are being achieved. The town being largely free from litter on adjudication day with the exception of the debris noted in the stream. The small amount of litter noted on the streets occurred on outward roads where there were no litter bins. This is something that could easily be addressed.

TIDINESS

The area adjacent to the fire station needs attention, but generally the town is neat and tidy.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Individual houses are well kept and enhance the appearance of the town. Green areas around the older estate were well maintained on adjudication day but a program of planting and landscaping would offer great potential for improvement. The new estate in the town is making good provision for green areas, with an attractive stone wall entrance. The landscaped areas around the new school and civic buildings looked well on adjudication day

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

On adjudication day, parking appeared to be restricted to one side on part of the steep hill leading into the town. Parking on both sides of the street was evident in the lower part of the town, limiting traffic to one lane in either direction, causing delays for through traffic. Evidence of attempts to create peripheral parking was noted, behind The Milford Hotel, and on the Kilmacrennan road. These areas need to be further developed, along with a tree planting and landscaping program around them. A Church car park lay idle, perhaps an arrangement could be made to use it during the weekdays. Further developments in this area are imperative and parking should be severely restricted or banned on the main street altogether. Your committee should address these issues in conjunction with the local authority.

A program for the upgrading and refurbishment of pavements is required, as some of the pavements are in a poor condition. As already stated creation of open areas in overgrown and disused back areas is an important part of any proposed developmental plan.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Milford has huge potential as yet not fully utilized. Identifying this potential, the problem areas, setting realistic goals and establishing ways of reaching them is of the utmost importance to ensure Milford develops, as it should.