

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **MILLTOWN**
County : **KERRY**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 02-07-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	24	26
The Built Environment	40	29	29
Landscaping	40	30	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	23	23
Tidiness	20	15	16
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	21
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	186	189

Milltown, Co. Kerry

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The adjudicator is very concerned to note that a Tidy Towns Work Programme or Plan was not submitted with the entry documentation.

Progress in the competition will be dependent on everyone working towards the same ends. With this in mind you must prepare a "3 /5 Year rolling Tidy Towns Work Programme". This programme should have the support of the community, local groups other agencies and the County Council. It would therefore guide your Tidy Towns actions for the next three to five years. The Work Programme will detail the Tidy Towns objectives to be achieved by your committee in the years ahead. The preparation of such a Plan that is updated annually is now an essential aspect of the Tidy Towns Competition.

Do keep in mind that what is required is a simple Plan or document.

A Tidy Towns Handbook was issued by the Department of the Environment and Local Government to all Tidy Towns Committees. This is a highly useful document, which will be a great help both to established Tidy Towns Committees and to all new entrants. It is divided into a series of seven Action Sheets that together cover all aspects of the Competition. Especially for new entrants it might be most useful for a committee to run a series of seminar evenings based on the contents of this Tidy Towns Handbook.

It is essential that you expand your Tidy Towns Committee beyond the dedicated five members that you have at the moment. The involvement of the town in traditional music is noted and this puts pressure on your Tidy Towns efforts.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Improvements in some previously derelict buildings have been noted, as are the future plans for a Memorial. Stone buildings are an attractive feature of Milltown and it is good to see some of them being restored. The boundary wall below the Church is in need of re-painting, and at the National School good use is made of strong colours. A partially demolished building was noted on the town side of the Church and presumably there are plans for this area. Both National Schools were well presented on adjudication day and are being well maintained. The Square by the Community Hall has further potential and the adjudicator wonders if a tree planting programme has ever been considered for this area. O'Doherty's Pharmacy has made a good colour choice. The Mart buildings are clean and tidy. Do continue with the programme of restoration of old stone buildings.

LANDSCAPING

Very attractive landscaping was noted on the Killarney road and the raised stone flower beds are visually effective. Some boundary walls in this area need attention. At the bottom of Chapel Kane it appears as if there may be some potential to develop a small amenity area for the village.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

There does not appear to be any serious programme in Milltown to develop attractive areas for wildlife, and the river area is an obvious area. The area near the road-bridge may have some possibilities. It is a pity that the attractively grass area here is dominated by a derelict car, on full view from the roadway. Do try and develop amenities that will encourage wildlife to your area. The first step however is to identify the species which inhabit the river area. 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. In terms of access do remember the 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

Quantities of litter was noted on the left-hand side of the road on the Killarney approach to Milltown, and in the Chapel Lane area.

TIDINESS

The Weekly Sweep-In is noted and this is an excellent project. The area in the vicinity of light industrial premises on the Killarney Road would be improved by a general tidying up or screening. In the nearby grounds of the old Church the grass is in need of regular cutting. The derelict garage at the road bridge needs attention. What is really required here is the painting of all sides of this corrugated iron building. At the graveyard on the Killorglin approach road the boundary wall would be improved by minor repair work and re-painting. At the road-bridge on the same approach to Milltown the wall at the bridge on the left hand side also needs some repair work.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The new housing scheme is noted and will look well when completed. It is hoped that the design for the site incorporates appropriate landscaping and open spaces. Attractive mature housing was noted on the Killarney approach road and Church Street. Kilcolman estate is also attractive with an impressive entrance off Kilcolman Square.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Major improvement works on the Milltown approach are noted and this is a major improvement. On the Killarney side of Milltown the approach road looks well and the banks are being appropriately maintained. In general most poles for the Speed Limit signs need to be re-painted. On the Killorglin side the old yellow road-signs near the cemetery need to be replaced urgently.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The overall Tidy Towns work for Milltown requires a simple achievable Action plan that will take a planned view of what needs to be done in Tidy Towns terms over the next few years. Do make every effort to expand your Committee as recommended at the beginning of this Report.