

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **MILLTOWNPASS**
County : **WESTMEATH**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 28-06-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	36
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	32	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	16
Litter Control	40	30	31
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	30
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	207	211

Milltownpass, Co. Westmeath

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Emphasis must be given to forward planning to make sure the character of the village is not lost. The prospect of a new motorway by passing Milltownpass in the medium term presents an opportunity to build on the villages attractive visual appearance and emphasises the need for well considered advance planning.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Care has to be taken that industrial development in the village does not become over dominant. Bennets building has clean lines and nice flower/plant displays at front. The church is well maintained with very attractive flower/shrub beds all maturing nicely. There are colourful flower pots in front of church building and the grass area is good if in need of a trim. The church is of modern but attractive construction. There are attractive displays of flowers on pillars of pedestrian entrances to church grounds.

The old residential buildings in the village centre are very well presented, freshly painted in cream, blue doors and grey lower walls. It is never the less disappointing to see the introduction of some plastic windows. Grennans pub looks well as does Tommy Wrights on the opposite side. The yellow walled office building which stretches from Tommy Wrights to the Sky Clad entrance are of disappointing design. The town house on the Mullingar turn is very attractively presented but again the plastic windows disappoint. It features a nice hanging baskets and footpath flower box display in front. New housing estate at Millview is still at construction stage. Generally footpaths are fairly good.

LANDSCAPING

The entrance from the Dublin Road side the lay-bye and cycle path is very attractive with mature planters to front and grass margin. The grass is reasonably well cut and the trees are maturing nicely. There is seating but one of the litter bins was full to overflowing. On the right hand side the kerb grasses were well maintained, but some weed growing in flower/plant bed between footpath and the chain link fence. Walls and gates to right hand side was well presented with newly developed footpath and furnished with litter bin. Some of the hedging in this area is excellent. The chain fence along the GAA grounds is well screened by hedging.

While the Leo Wright factory is well screened from the Athlone side, it is somewhat exposed to view from the Dublin side. The adjudicator was impressed by the attractive old wall and shrubs feature at the bridge over the Milton River, and the colourful water pump feature beside the telephone kiosk

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

St. Joesphs School is cleanly presented. There is mature hedging around the school and a small wildlife garden is developing at the

rear. Litter free but gates need painting. The area adjacent to the pedestrian entrance to the GAA grounds provides excellent full wildlife habitat but some information/interpretation must be provided.

LITTER CONTROL

By and large your litter management programme is having a rewarding effect. It was disappointing to see a child's tricycle had been dumped into the Milltown River at the back of the school.

TIDINESS

Disappointing to see large bill board in the centre of the village. More could be done to screen the large railing gate entrance gates to Sky Clad . Some efforts have been made with potted plants etc. so clearly the intent is there. The graveyard, car park and grave yard walls are well presented. The footpath from the graveyard to the village has been completed. The new wall from the Leo Wright factory has been completed but the grass verge in this area requires attention. The entrance to the Milltownpass GAA grounds needs some weeding as does the front right hand side of the car park. There was a good supply of litter bins.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Residential areas are well presented. There is some dilapidation evident at the right hand close to the GAA Grounds. From the 40mph sign maintenance of verges is evident. The small housing estate opposite the Milltownpass mini Market is clean and tidy.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The only bilingual signs evident are the statutory road signs. There are virtually no trees along the main street, other than those over hanging from private gardens. Entrances to the village are generally quite attractive, in particularly the Mullingar Road. The approach from the Athlone side is well done particularly the screening and planting at the Leo Wright factory. Road surfaces are good and there is an adequate supply of litter bins.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Milltownpass suffers from very high levels of heavy goods and other national route traffic. In this circumstance it is a credit to the village that it has maintained its own community ambience and has not accepted the through traffic servicing or dormitory housing as an over riding influence.