

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Milltownpass**

Ref: **682**

County: **Westmeath**

Mark: **219**

Category: **A**

Date: **02/07/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	37
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	33	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	32	32
Tidiness	20	16	17
Residential Areas	30	19	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	30
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	219	219

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for your draft Milltownpass village plan 2004 – 2010. This is an exciting document and an essential tool in facing the prospect of the new motorway by passing Milltownpass. The removal of high volumes of passing traffic through the village presents new opportunities and challenges. Emphasis must be given to forward planning to make sure the character of the village is not lost but rather built on to support the development of your community.

The Built Environment:

The Riveriew B&B premises looks well with its flower tubs and nice garden. Wrights premises is excellent with its maturing shrubberies fronting its roadside border. Good to see the development of the new car park and the maintenance of the corner triangle. The Gala Shop although modern in design was cleanly presented and the feature buildings, Grennans Pub and the attached terrace of Georgian Houses looked very well indeed. Church and its grounds are well maintained with flower tubs and mature trees and hedging virtually surrounding the car park. Bennets building looks well, modern but dressed with creepers and plants. Coynes Post Office is very attractive in its old village style, but the Tavern Bar's overhead sign should be reduced in size and relocated to fascia level. The school building looks clean and tidy although there is additional building work underway.

Landscaping:

Large trees both right and left form an attractive entrance to the village from the Athlone side. The development of the shrubbery below the Skycald sign is commended and hopefully this will be further developed in the years ahead. The approach from the Mullingar Road is good with trimmed verges, and attractively placed village sign supported by floral display. The GAA grounds and community centre is well maintained and nicely screened with cut hedging. The new trees along verge fronting the GAA Ground are maturing nicely. Stone fronted walls are a feature of the village, particularly at the riverside locations. The water pump/floral feature at the public phone box is particularly attractive. Particular attention should be given to the redevelopment of open areas along the main street to ensure they accommodate a village lifestyle in the absence of high traffic levels.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Beside the school the wildlife area looks ideal with its combination of forest, grass, and wet lands. The bridge is in need of repair as there are no protective sides in place. It is also recommended that some measure of interpretive service be prepared. The graveyard on the Athlone side is tidy with a well maintained car park.

Litter Control:

By and large your litter management programme is having a rewarding effect. In spite of traffic levels, litter was not a major problem in Milltownpass.

Tidiness:

Unfortunately on inspection day the very attractive rose/wall feature opposite Skyclad was being used to 'store' about 4 timber pallets. The Skycald frontage between the gates and roadway was untidy with pallets, bricks, and gravel heaps. Traffic is a problem, and the narrow roadway encourages bus usage of footpaths for let downs which does not augur well for the footpaths' future. 4 Recycling bins are in place near the school on the Mullingar road. The use of village building walls for advertising sign display should be discouraged. There is relatively little wirescape with most running along one side of the road. Public lighting is of the large timber pole topped with metal fixture. There was a good supply of litter bins.

Residential Areas:

Gardens are generally well cared for with a wide selection of trees, and hedges. Millview Housing Estate looks very well. Its central grass and play area well maintained. A little show of kerbside weed to left of entrance.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Entrances to the village are generally quite attractive. The approach to Milltownpass from the Kinegad side is impressive with well maintained picnic area to left. Road surfaces are good and verges trimmed. The approach from the Athlone side is well done, particularly from the Milltownpass sign which is well presented with trimmed verge and attractive stone wall to its rear. Installation of new brick paths was in train in front of Grennans Pub, and up towards Bennets.

General Impression:

Milltownpass is going through an interesting time in its development. It is evident the Tidy Town Committee is actively involved at this critical time which augurs well for its future.

