

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Milford-Cork**

Ref: **257**

County: **Cork North**

Mark: **227**

Category: **B**

Date: **12/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	36
The Built Environment	40	29	28
Landscaping	40	33	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	22
Litter Control	40	32	33
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	29
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	227	224

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for your submission of three-year plan, village map and details of work on hand. We feel your plan now needs updating and perhaps you might tackle this for next year. The village looked well on a fine June day and there was much colour in evidence. Also in evidence was work in progress which, when complete, will boost your marks further. Many people were observed painting their premises and this is now one of your strong points. The village is well laid out and the traditional attractive church, complete with distinctive gates dominates the village approach from this end.

The Built Environment:

You have many fine buildings and many now in need of much improvement. This probably reflects the change of use related to farming matters and it is noticed the old creamery building is under demolition: what is planned for the future?. We liked the bilingual cast signage throughout the village. You should pursue this policy to other areas. Some centres have taken to indentifying lanes and townlands as these have a strong link with the traditions of an area. The Kerry Agribusiness is really untidy and a let down to your endeavours.

Landscaping:

This is one of your strong points and the fresh painting of many premises was evident on adjudication day. A freshly painted village is always pleasing to visitors and locals alike and we found this in Milford. Indeed, if you look around you will see the benefits of previous year's planting and many shrubs and trees are now maturing and enhancing the overall appearance of the village. Of course the challenge for you is to ensure a strong maintenance programme and not to embark on new ones until you have got the maintenance under control. You still have room for more tree planting and we would suggest this should be extended to the approach roads.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You are well equipped to raise your marks in this section and the work at the river should act as a stimulus for embarking on a wildlife project that would generate enthusiasm and appreciation for our wildlife. This can be done by erecting display boards featuring flora and fauna illustrations and the Heritage Council in Kilkenny will send you an attractive booklet that will be of guidance to you. Of course wildlife is not confined to river banks and the treatment of the approach and appropriate planting will also contribute to wildlife promotion.

Litter Control:

You have a black spot in this category: the Bring Bank is a disaster and should be removed to a more disciplined location. It is being seriously abused and presents a very poor image for the village on this approach. Bring Banks are proving immensely beneficial in most centres and it would be a pity for Milford not to reap the benefits of this facility because of unacceptable behaviour by some.

The village core was almost free of litter and reflects very well on traders and residents alike.

Tidiness:

Your problems here relate to a number of unattended open spaces and some poorly presented commercial buildings already referred to. Unfortunately development works in progress tend to be untidy and we would urge developers to finish well and ensure sites are landscaped before they leave.

Residential Areas:

Dr. Croke Place is again well presented and some individuals excel. In general, housing is of a high standard and well maintained. The new sheltered housing scheme is really taking place and we commend the developers on the use of stone and timber windows: this will be an important development and will enhance the appearance of the village from this approach. Further down the housing scheme seems to be at a stand still and the site looked deserted. We hope next year's report will feature great praise for this site.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

There is much evidence of community effort on the approach roads and the freshly painted public seating does much to welcome the visitor, so well done. Traditional street furniture can enhance village appearance and we commend you on your work in this respect. Maintaining to a high standard will further improve the overall appearance. There are some side and rear entrances that need improved presentation and we impress upon you the importance of these areas as they now form part of core adjudication in the competition.

General Impression:

It was a great pleasure to visit and adjudicate Milford and witness the work in progress. You have potential to become a high scorer in the competition and we urge you to revisit your development plan and recruit new members. The current developments when complete will enable you to raise

your marks and should also lead to future improvements, so we wish you well in your endeavours.

Second Round Adjudication:

Considerable development work within the village is causing some disruption at the moment - but when this is complete the result will be helpful. Stonewalls being built look attractive. There is a sharp contrast on each side of the road at the recycle bins – the small riverside park is beautifully cared for and forms a lovely feature, whereas the recycle area as mentioned above together with the surrounds is not in keeping with the tone of the village. The Church, its grounds and the grounds of the adjoining houses add greatly to the village centre. The overhead cables hopefully will be removed before long. The refurbishment of the several buildings in need of attention would represent a huge improvement. Some attention to paint and décor is needed in places including walls at Dr. Croke Place. The green area to the back of this estate also needs to have the same attention as the front greens. The village central stone surrounded feature seems to enshrine the telephone kiosk and a rethink for this feature could result in a much more interesting central village feature. Some litter by roadsides was noted.