

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Milltown-Kildare**

Ref: **384**

County: **Kildare**

Mark: **210**

Category: **A**

Date: **01/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	28
The Built Environment	40	26	25
Landscaping	40	31	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	19
Litter Control	40	29	30
Tidiness	20	15	16
Residential Areas	30	25	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	31
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	210	210

Overall Developmental Approach:

The sketch of the village was helpful at adjudication. A plan is now needed so that the work of the committee can be mapped out over the next five years. The preparation of such a plan will help to focus on all the items within the village that need attention or projects that could be undertaken. By setting down these then a programme of work, time schedule and the practicalities can be planned out ahead. The committee of three members forms a very small group and a recruitment drive to gain more members would be a good idea.

The Built Environment:

The church is attractively presented with well-painted roadside wall. The roadside school wall needs attention to painting, as does the back of the old school building. The new school building looks well. The shop and public house look well presented. A derelict building next to the church hopefully can be dealt with soon. Another building across the road with corrugated roof and side (beside the school wall) needs attention. The bridge at the canal is a lovely stone structure – it would make an interesting project to strip all the ivy from this and expose the beauty of the entire bridge. The restoration of the stone well will make an interesting project.

Landscaping:

Tree planting along by the school looks very well – both the small leafed maples and the Hornbeam trees give a very nice green foil along the street side. The planting feature on the corner opposite the school is well tended. The tubs around the school give some colour – the Cordyline trees are becoming too big for the containers. Individual well cared for gardens of houses through the village contribute well to the overall landscape of the village

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The canal bank walk makes lovely strolling ground. The mown grass passage allows for pleasant walking and gives a very natural appearance to the canal side. This walkway offers good potential for wildlife observation. Some information or help people know what and where to look for wildlife – plants, birds and animals, would be helpful. Perhaps some information boards or leaflets could help. Local information could be gathered and as a school project an inventory could be made of the range of wildlife that may be seen.

Litter Control:

Litter control could be improved. Some litter was noticed along the street by the school opposite the school, outside the shops and at the bridges. A concerted approach to litter management should be a major part of your planning. Methods of collection of litter, campaigns to reduce litter and disposal of collected litter are all important questions.

Tidiness:

Good efforts are being made. There is good scope for improvement. Some weediness along the footpath kerbs and at the wall opposite the church need attention. The corrugated iron shed and the derelict houses also present a difficulty. The wire mesh at the school tennis courts is also looking a little untidy at this stage. It would be great to have the overhead cables removed to underground.

Residential Areas:

Individual houses – especially along the Newbridge road look very well. The housing estate Fenview Heights looks well. Houses are generally well cared for in Millview estate. Houses that are well cared for - with attention to painting, good care of the garden, painted walls if appropriate and free of any discarded materials visible to the front – all convey a very positive image of the village.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Newbridge road carries much traffic through the village and perhaps some traffic calming measures would be helpful. A pedestrian crossing would also help. There is very little space for car parking by the church. Road surfaces are reasonably good but there is some patchiness in places. The road surface is very broken at the margins to either side of the road at the church. The approach roads look well and the care of the hedgerows – keeping them as natural as possible and yet keeping them sufficiently cut back for safety is a delicate balance.

General Impression:

Milltown has good potentials for further development. Attention to detail of road surfaces, paint, and plantings would result in an upgrading of the village.