

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Milltown-Monaghan**

Ref: **336**

County: **Monaghan**

Mark: **213**

Category: **A**

Date: **04/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	30
The Built Environment	40	30	29
Landscaping	40	31	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	17
Litter Control	40	35	35
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	24
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	213	211

Overall Developmental Approach:

The adjudicator would like to thank you for the village map and brief details of your 205 / 2006 Tidy Towns Programme. Since the 2004 adjudication great progress appears to have been made in the village. The old Mill has now been demolished and plans are at Planning Permission stage for warehouse construction.

The Built Environment:

The present Planning Applications for warehouse construction should help to bring additional activity into the village. Hopefully the developers are all committed to appropriate landscaping measures through Planning Permission conditions. If so do make sure that future landscaping works are carried out in full before contractors leave the area.

The village has managed to integrate a number of small and medium sized businesses into the community and there appeared to be a happy coexistence that is warmly welcomed. At the James Boylan Safety premises the planting of a line of trees inside the roadside railing would provide a welcome addition to the village.

The adjudicator was unsure about the lines of white stones at the road boundaries in the village centre - they are artificial and look just that. A frequent problem with roads is that there is no road kerb to divide the road surface from the grass verge. A frequent result of this is that verges can get badly damaged. Do talk to your Local Authority Engineer about this difficulty.

Landscaping:

On adjudication day the many natural and planted trees together with the colourful landscaping made Milltown a very attractive village to visit. Your bedding plants and flower tubs programme has been effective. The small grass and landscaped area at the junction for Monaghan has a high visibility position and was well presented.

The adjudicator notes your plans for cottage restoration. While this is welcomed, it is important that there is a new viable and sustainable use for the property once restored. Restoration in itself will not guarantee the future of the building.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your work in the provision of bat roosts and planting to attract wildlife is welcomed. On adjudication day the adjudicator walked the length of the river walk and got very wet in the process! The cut vegetation needs to be taken away and the vegetation along the bank of the river needs to be trimmed and lowered so that the river is visible. Also the trees that have been planted along the walk will need to be trimmed from time to time to allow use of the walk. There is a sense of enclosure on this walk, rather than the experience of viewing the river and associated wildlife.

In many towns and villages this is an aspect of the Tidy Towns Competition where there can be significant potential for development. All towns and villages have the presence of wildlife to some degree. It is important that your Tidy Towns Committee would examine further the wildlife potential, and see what you can achieve in terms of making your area even more wildlife friendly.

If you have not already done so, the starting point is to have a habitat Survey carried out of the wildlife in your area. Suggested habitats to be considered include the following –

- Urban habitats – gardens, waste ground, walls, graveyards, hedges
- Wetland habitats – rivers, ponds, lakes, canals, reed marsh, bogs
- Woodland habitats – forests, hedgerows, plantations, parks
- Grassland habitats – roadside verges, parks, wet meadows, dry grasslands

The Survey should produce a species list for each of the habitats relevant to your area

This need not be an expensive Survey. Perhaps there is a knowledgeable person in one of your Schools who might undertake this task for you. Basically the Survey would identify the animals, plants, birds, fish that inhabit your area and their associated habitats. It should be remembered that to carry out the Survey properly that it will probably take a year so that all habitats can be assessed at different time of the year.

Using the results of the Wildlife Survey your next step should be do draft a straight forward Plan to preserve the identified habitats in your area, and investigate the possibility of new ones. For example perhaps there is an old Pond in your area that is disused, but with a little work could be an important area for wildfowl.

It is most important to try and involve your local school children in this project, and in many Schools there is probably a teacher who may have an interest in this area who would be willing to get involved.

As part of the actions to be undertaken in your Wildlife Plan you might like to consider the provision of some weather proof and vandal proof display panels, illustrating and explaining the wildlife in your area. This has been done very successfully in many towns and villages in Ireland.

Litter Control:

Litter control on adjudication day was again good this year. It is very important that your Committee would develop a litter control plan for your village. The issue of litter control is not an issue just for the Local Authority. All citizens and especially your Tidy Towns Committee have a key role to play. Your plan should include such issues as surveying the litter bins that you have in your community and their adequacy, clean up days and the role of your local schools.

The regular emptying of a litter bins if of course essential.

Tidiness:

Some untidiness was evident due to the ongoing development works in Milltown and you have not lost marks because of that activity. As mentioned in the 2004 report hopefully your Tidy Towns Committee has had some influence in these developments. The old pump on the just over the bridge on the Monaghan side should be painted and featured.

Residential Areas:

Private properties were well presented. Some very attractive gardens were also noted, and the landscaping work by property owners contributes in a most important way to the overall character of your village. There is a feeling here that all owners of private houses realise that they have a role in the presentation of the village and that they take pride in that.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

On the Tydavnet approach road verges were uncut on the approach road but on entry to the village a very good verge presentation was evident. On the Monaghan side the presentation out to the 50 KPH signs was quite good but work should be extended out a little further. The overall presentation of all approach roads is of critical importance. It is this that gives the first impression of your town or village. Attractive well presented approach roads give a great impression of a community that cares about how others see them.

General Impression:

Milltown is a beautiful village that has the potential to do well in the Tidy Towns Competition when the present developments under way and planned have been completed.

Second Round Adjudication: