

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Milltownpass**

Ref: **144**

County: **Westmeath**

Mark: **220**

Category: **A**

Date: **17/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	38
The Built Environment	40	29	28
Landscaping	40	33	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	16
Litter Control	40	32	32
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	20	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	30
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>219</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Many thanks for your application form and map. Your submission should also have included a schedule of work completed for the year and a brief three-to-five year Development Plan. This plan will help you identify what can be done to improve the village over the next few years and the resources you will require. In addition, the works-completed schedule will allow you to monitor your achievements on a regular basis.

The Milltownpass Tidy Towns committee continues to be proactive and works in cooperation with local community groups, the local authority and other agencies.

### The Built Environment:

Commercial buildings of note in Milltownpass would include Bennett's and Wrights. Both of these have made excellent effort in presenting their premises. The stone front on Bennet's, with its climbing plants, is particularly attractive. The Georgian residence opposite Skyclad remains a focal point of the town. The Church building and grounds are well maintained. The signage on the gable of Grennan's Pub should be reduced in size. The village pump area was well maintained, with attractive flowers surrounding it and the phone box area. The old post box however, could do with upgrading. The new wheelchair ramp at the church is a welcome addition.

## **Landscaping:**

The landscaping at Wrights provides a nice welcome to the village. However, on the day of inspection part of the fence and wall at the entrance had been knocked down. The shrubbery area underneath the Skyclad sign was bare. This is a pity as the frontage of Skyclad could certainly use a splash of colour. Commencing at the Georgian house opposite Skyclad was a theme of hanging baskets and potted flowers which continued through the village and was very eye-catching. The picnic area at the Dublin end of the village was well maintained with a nice selection of young and mature trees complimenting the wooden seating areas. It should be noted, however, that these seats could do with some maintenance as they were a little weathered.

## **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The adjudicator was disappointed to note the waste which was discarded in the wildlife area, this included an old wheel and tire as well as what looked like industrial insulation material. At the far end of the wildlife park foundation work had begun with hardcore having been laid. This work has obviously had a detrimental effect on the area, with flattened grass and vehicle tracks very evident. It is noted that this land has been acquired by the school for extension purposes, which may explain the lack of upgrading of the zone, in particular the lack of railings on the footbridge, which was suggested in last year's report.

## **Litter Control:**

By and large, litter did not seem to be a major problem in Milltownpass, with one or two exceptions. As mentioned in the above category some dumping had commenced in the Wildlife area. There were scatterings of litter outside of Skyclad. However, this did not look like old litter, which would suggest that the village litter control efforts are being rewarded. The recycling area was very neat. Keep up the Good Work!

## **Tidiness:**

The yard at Skyclad could do with some neatening, as it was rather untidy and unsightly from the road. Some of the footpaths were damaged, obviously due to the heavy goods vehicles that pass through the somewhat narrow streets of the village day and night. As mentioned in the category the "Built Environment", some signage on building gables should be reduced in size and possibly made to blend in more with the village and its environs. Wirescape is not a problem in Milltownpass, and the public lighting mounted on service poles is unobtrusive.

## **Residential Areas:**

The effort of residents in the upkeep of their gardens is noted by the adjudicator. The green areas are well cared for and houses generally look very well. Well done to all involved.

## **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The approach roads to Milltownpass from Dublin and Athlone are relatively well maintained. A little more trimming of verges wouldn't go amiss, although the signage is of good standard. The Mullingar approach was a little unkempt, but nothing that some attention would not remedy. The graveyard on the Athlone approach was a credit to the community, and the evergreens roadside of the GAA grounds brightens the approach considerably. The relatively new brick footpaths greatly enhance the streetscape.

## **General Impression:**

Milltownpass is a picturesque village in a natural setting. The efforts of the community in maintaining a neat and tidy area is especially commendably, given the throughflow of traffic. The

future looks bright!

## **Second Round Adjudication:**