

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Milford** Ref: **593**
County: **Cork (North)** Mark: **240**
Category: **B** Date(s): **21/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	37
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	23
Litter Control	50	32
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	240

Overall Development Approach:

Milford Tidy Towns would appear to have a good structure to their community groups and hold sufficient meetings throughout the year to achieve their aims. You appear to have a very good working relationship with Cork County Council and in particular the County Architect which is excellent news. You would also appear to work well with Ballyhoura Development and FAS. You seem to have the full support of the local community which must be a great help in your plans. Many thanks for your enclosed urban and village renewal plan and map of the village which were both very useful on the day.

The Built Environment:

The built environment looked extremely well and work was still ongoing in places. The school looked quite fresh and the stone Church was admired. Ni Choileain's Shop looked very fresh, as did the Post Office. Collins was fine. The Co-op will need painting before next year's competition. You had mentioned in your application that a clear up had taken place here but there was still evidence of building materials being stored outside and the building appeared very grubby. An attractive stepped gabled garage was admired – Donegan's but this should be painted up before next year's competition. The entrance area to the GAA grounds has an interesting design. The buildings of the GAA themselves were reasonably ok but weed control was apparent to kerbsides in the complex.

Landscaping:

This is an area of the competition that you obviously enjoy. The planting at the centre of the village looked extremely well. The park area looked well but was a little littered on the day. An attractive old yard area with outbuildings and a trough of geraniums gave a glimpse to an attractive incidental landscaped space. The tennis courts were well maintained, as was the monument near the bridge. The village pump with its cartwheel and floral display on the Dromcolliher Road was greatly admired.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your plans to create a wetland area at the quay are looked forward to with great anticipation. The reintroduced of wild ducks at the waterside following their disturbance due to construction works is commendable.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day was somewhat inconsistent. Some was evident outside the school and on the Newtownshandrum approach generally. More was evident in the village centre and in the park as previously mentioned. You involve the local school children in the County Council Litter Challenge and Spring Clean Week which is commendable and the removal of 150 bags of rubbish in the Litter Challenge was certainly a marvellous achievement!

Waste Minimisation:

The bring bank at the Co-op was reasonably neat in that there was no evidence of dumping but it did appear quite weedy. In order to garner useful and well earned marks in this category of the competition you should read your Tidy Towns Handbook and Race Against Waste brochure which will give you ideas for improving this important aspect of the competition. You should consider the possibility of organising seminars on waste minimisation, segregation and composting.

Tidiness:

The village generally looked quite neat and ordered. A minor bone of contention would be to screen yard areas from public view such as the storage of materials at the Co-op and creamery building.

Residential Areas:

The standard in this aspect of the competition was generally very good. There are some large houses with attractive gardens on The Newtownshandrum Road. There is a new stock of housing which integrates well into the existing urban fabric of the village. The house beside the Church with the rose garden was admired – presumably the parochial house? The new stone houses at the square were admired, as was the attractive ivy clad house which retains its original sash windows. A magnificent garden to a single storey house on the Feenagh Road was also admired. The Doctor Croke Place houses looked well but some of the boundary walls will need painting before next year's competition, as will the tin roof to a cottage in the village centre - in its traditional red colour.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The standard in this category was somewhat inconsistent. The Newtownshandrum Road is a long lead into the village. Some of the houses had looked after the area in front of their gardens but the rest looked a little wild and unkempt. The standard was better further in towards the village centre and the floral display at the nameplate was greatly admired. The children crossing sign appeared quite grubby however and the speed limit sign was bent over and was horizontal! The fingerposts signage at the centre of the village is very useful as it lets the visitor know exactly where everything is located.

General Impression:

It was a pleasure to visit Milford for the first time. You are obviously a community who care greatly about their village! Good luck with all your future endeavours.