

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Milltown** Ref: **202**
County: **Galway** Mark: **273**
Category: **B** Date(s): **17/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	45
The Built Environment	50	34
Landscaping	50	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	27
Litter Control	50	38
Waste Minimisation	20	11
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	32
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	273

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you very much for your application and the accompanying interesting documentation and photographs. It is evident that you have put in time and effort in preparing this submission so well done. You communicate well with the local community via a selection of mediums and it is encouraging that you have dedicated members that call on the local school at least twice a year to get the Tidy Towns message across to the younger generation. You state in your application that it gets harder every year to get co-operation, you are doing such a good job, so keep it up. The location of the new housing estates in the village (such as Mill Brook) has the potential to give these residents a greater incentive to get involved with the Tidy Towns competition and foster a sense of civic pride and we urge you to try to recruit more volunteers from these new housing estates to help with your endeavours.

The Built Environment:

The Church enjoys a prominent location in the village and is well kept. The community centre is well maintained and landscaped with trees. Other buildings worth noting include, the Health Centre and Teac Uí Sioradain. The area beside Sheridan's Shop could be improved. Grogan's Bar and Grocery is dilapidated and would benefit from painting. You nominated Finns for a Shopfront Award, unfortunately on adjudication day the sign had been removed, we assumed it was being renovated or painted. The dressing room at the GAA pitch was looking well, displaying the Milltown GAA Club Crest.

Landscaping:

There are number attractive planting schemes through out the village and we liked the flowers recently planted on the bridge. Landscaping in the Park is excellent; we particularly liked the Dick Dowling Cottage. We were amazed to see the front page of the Tuam Herald you enclosed showing the Park surrounding the

Cottage after the River Claire burst its banks in December 2006. A tremendous amount of remedial work and landscaping work must have been undertaken to get the Park looking so well again. Well done!

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Milltown Park and the playground are excellent amenities for the local community and it was disappointing that we were the only visitors to the Park during the adjudication on a sunny afternoon in June. The Clare River walk has an abundance of flora and fauna and is extremely well maintained. The recently erected plaque detailing about the famine pot is an interesting touch. The stone plaques around the Park are interesting. This is just an example of the attention to detail exhibited throughout the village that allows you to be amongst the high scores in the competition. We look forward with anticipation to the completion of the Cloondroon Lake Project. As you have highlighted "the Cloondroon Lake and surrounding peatland habitats is a gem of biodiversity" and you have the opportunity to raise your marks in this section through the development of this project and further developing the Clare River walk.

Litter Control:

No litter was evident anywhere in the Village – well done. The Bring Bank was well maintained with no litter. Consider some screening at the Bring Bank facility; we suggest possibly a picket fence with planting at both sides.

Waste Minimisation:

Under this category you have been quite busy this year – well done. You state that recycling is well established within the Parish and composting is well on the way – keep the momentum up and increase your recycling rates. You have also made a start on progressing up the waste management hierarchy towards waste minimisation with the distribution to businesses and waste minimisation course to the local schools. We would like to see the waste management booklet that has been distributed to the local businesses and hear about your specific involvement in these areas.

Tidiness:

Generally, the footpaths, roads and walls were all clean and well maintained. We have to mention the plethora of "for sale" signs in the village, we wonder is there any need for all these signs? Within the riverside park some fencing from the footbridge to Mill Bridge could be upgraded both for aesthetic and safety reasons. However, we wonder is it really needed as some banks do not have fencing and look better for it. As mentioned last year you have some unoccupied premises and untidy open spaces.

Residential Areas:

Generally, housing in the area is well kept. The Mill Brook housing estate and the further development of the landscaping through time will be important.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach road from Galway is very well kept and the Welcome sign does its job! The approach road from the Claremorris direction is not in as good repair but we are assuming this is due to work in relation to the Group Water Scheme or the new Sewerage Scheme. The tree planting and the grass verges are attractive. Road plaques are appropriate; the Dawros Road plaque is a good example. Also we noted that the lighting on the Dawros Road was attractive and more in-keeping with the character of the village compared to the lighting in the village itself. The entrance to the GAA pitch was quite pot-holed.

General Impression:

We thoroughly enjoyed our adjudication of Milltown and were impressed by attention to detail that was evident. The Development Association is consistently working hard to maintain the village and we welcome your forward thinking with regards to the new lake project. Do you have a development plan? We recommend you to prepare a development plan (if one does not exist) to chart the way forward in the future in relation to future developments. You have raised your marks this year due to your efforts and we hope that this will act as a stimulus for further action and securing further involvement from the local community. Well done and best wishes for the 50th anniversary of the competition next year.