

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Milltown** Ref: **378**  
County: **Kildare** Mark: **214**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **17/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	24
The Built Environment	50	31
Landscaping	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	16
Litter Control	50	32
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27
General Impression	10	5
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>214</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your completed entry form together with map. Your small committee are applauded for their decision to take part in the TidyTowns competition. It is to be hoped that you will be joined by other volunteers as things develop. Although a tiny community Milltown has a number of buildings and attributes which mark it out as an interesting and worthwhile entry.

The school which clearly serves a wide area is very well presented, freshly painted, neat and orderly.

### The Built Environment:

The splendid and historic canal bridge is an interesting start point to the village on the Kildare Tourist route. The school itself is very well presented, being freshly painted and the yard well swept. The delightful 1828 "Subscription House" is an important structure of local history. We note the old school building, now closed, is on a site for which planning permission has been applied. Daly's Grocery and Newsagents is well presented and is visually significant as it closes the view on the approach road from the canal towards the village. Milltown Inn itself looked well but the foreground leaves room for improvement. The church and grounds were well presented while the small Kingdom Hall of Jehovah Witnesses was neatly presented. The Old Mill, by the Canal represents an interesting element of industrial architecture. The Hangman's Pub by the Canal Walk and bridge was very well painted and looked well.

### Landscaping:

The gates of Milltown Gaelic Football Club Grounds 1888 might be better presented with a more imposing entrance area. The small green and white village pump was very neat and well presented. We commend the nice planting at the corner opposite the school while the Canal Walk and surrounding area looked inviting.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

In recent years additional weight has been giving to activities which are likely to result in increased bird and wildlife activity in the village. It anticipates the creation of small natural habitats and the planting and structures suitable for the promotion of additional bird life activity. The surrounding countryside at Milltown offer many opportunities to establish such facilities. In particular the Canal area and equally within the extensive school grounds a location might be set aside for this purpose.

Seek the advice of a local enthusiast, perhaps a member of BirdWatch Ireland who would be willing to give a few pointers as to how best to proceed.

### **Litter Control:**

We did not notice any litter bins on the day of adjudication. These would be an added benefit in the area once arrangements can be made for their appropriate servicing. Litter amounts did not appear to be a problem in the area.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

Congratulations to the national school on securing its Green Flag Status. This is not something easily acquired or retained so full marks to the students and the management for their achievement. All members of the community both collectively and at individual household level need to be involved in the reduction of waste and especially to reuse items wherever feasible and to recycle wherever possible. In this way the extent of waste being carted to landfill sites will be diminished to the benefit of all.

### **Tidiness:**

A number of factors call for attention under this heading. The abandoned house is certainly an element. Ideally if it could be refurbished or brought to gainful reoccupation, alternately its enhanced treatment while the final use of that site is being explored. A number of houses in similar state have been whitewashed pending development. The area in front of Milltown Pub would benefit from enhanced presentation. The very splendid presentation outside the walls of the national schools together with the planters there is commendable and taken with the planting at the corner provide a very fine vista with the shop in the background.

### **Residential Areas:**

Mill View Estate has an enviable record in its presentation and this year is no exception. The mature trees looked very well, the communal grassed area very well presented and there was a delightful absence of litter. Two houses in other parts of the village appear to be unoccupied. Other private houses looked well especially those on the Kildare Road. Fen View Heights had a fine, sizeable cut stone name plate and the communal grassed area was well presented, with good planting in the corner. We noted a new house in course of construction.

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

Roads did tend to let you down. The road signage was quite dirty. In other centres teams of school children have taken on the task of keeping these washed and free from traffic spoil. In places the road surface is somewhat below par and this is more a matter for the local authority. Hedgerows and verges were well cut back. We noted that the existing speed bumps some of which are in need of refurbishment are identified with small markers at the side of the road to indicant their existence. However these markers are not aligned with the speed bumps themselves.

### **General Impression:**

Milltown is a small community with some interesting attributes and clearly a school that is committed to the concept of enhancing and improving the environment. Thank you for making this entry and for your efforts to make your own place a better place.

All associated and involved with this year's entry are thanked and applauded for their efforts and wish well in 2009