

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Milltown** Ref: **373**
County: **Monaghan** Mark: **234**
Category: **A** Date(s): **02/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	32
The Built Environment	50	31
Landscaping	50	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	17
Litter Control	50	39
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	24
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	234

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your most clear directions to Milltown as requested by last years adjudicator. You should do this annually as there tends to be a different adjudicator each year. Thank you for the inclusion of the 2006 three year plan. It is good to note that the majority of objectives have been achieved or addressed in some way. Make sure to update this plan now for the coming three to five years to sustain marks in this section. Your completed entry form was also of considerable use to the adjudicator, perhaps the inclusion of 'before' and 'after' pictures should be considered for inclusion with future years. You have quite a large committee for the size of the village and this is to your advantage. Ongoing support and co-operation with Combi-Lift, Monaghan Town Council and Monaghan County Council is commendable. It is also good to note that there are public meetings held in relation to major development in Milltown.

The Built Environment:

JBS and Heat Merchants are commended on their sharp appearance. Heiton Buckley too is cleanly presented. Tithe Alaiinn looked well however the galvanised roof would benefit from a fresh coat of paint. Green Fingers looked well however the rust stained sign detracts from the overall appearance.

Landscaping:

Newly planted marigolds were admired at the base of the tree at Millbrook. Planters were noted at the Monaghan approach also. The triple stacked trailing petunias added a welcome splash of colour at the bench. The entrance wall to the industrial park was overgrown with grass and weeds and this was disappointing. This provides a wonderful opportunity to brighten up the area with seasonal flowers. The fences trees along the riverbank are maturing well.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The river is a wonderful amenity to have and offers huge potential. The bird table too was noted by the adjudicator. You should continue to provide further access as the area is still quite overgrown.

Litter Control:

Litter control is good in Milltown but there was an odd piece evident here and there. The bins are the most spectacular that this adjudicator has ever seen and it appears that there are mixed views locally. However, as long as the bins are suitably located, in good condition and serve a purpose there is no problem!

Waste Minimisation:

With regard to this section your comment is valid that the population does not warrant a Bring Bank, however there are other options. Do you compost green waste? Are the businesses implementing 'green' systems? Perhaps the Environmental Officer in Monaghan County Council could give you assistance with this area.

Tidiness:

Please ensure that the promotional signage at Millbrook is removed as soon as its purpose is served. The small parking area at the green would benefit from proper surfacing and perhaps the County Council could be convinced to include this area when they are resurfacing the road. Weed growth is evident here also. The bench area was spotless on the morning of adjudication but bench itself should be re-varnished before next year's competition. The wooden fence is neat in appearance at Millbrook and this is of paramount importance as it conveys one of the first impressions on approaching Milltown. The bench along the riverside walk is in a sad state and should be repaired and painted or removed. Please ensure that entrances and field gates are being maintained to a high standard too as this can detract from the over all tidiness of the village.

Residential Areas:

The two contrasting pink residences looked marvellous in the early morning sunlight. The Millbrook development was admired for its fresh clean appearance. The semi-detached residences opposite the parking area were well painted. The bungalow and garden bordered by white chains in the village really set the standard. Generally speaking the bungalows on the outskirts looked well too

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The grassy verge at Combi-Lift was only partially cut and this was a pity. Other roadside verges should be cut back around a foot deep to give a neat impression whilst also facilitating wildlife habitats continue.

General Impression:

It was a pleasure to visit Milltown and we hope to see you in the competition in the years to come. It is important to plan ahead and submit this information with your application. Good Luck!