

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Milford** Ref: **593**  
County: **Cork(North)** Mark: **266**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **04/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	37
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	38
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	31
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	34
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>266</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Thank you for the entry form and the appendix containing a letter re three-year plan, location map and photographs. I note you have six to eight members on your committee, and this is adequate, as you state you are a sub committee. There is good commitment to meet so often as a group. The newsletter is a great way of keeping the people informed of you plans and activities. You are, I observe, engaging well with the local school and you could assist them to get the Green Flag status. You may find Paddy Madden's book "The School Garden" what to do, and when to do it, to be useful. The parish family fun day is a great social occasion. It is encouraging to find that the competition helps to generate interest and garner support from the local community. Good luck with the family fun day. You have a good approach to the Tidy Towns Competition – well done.

### **The Built Environment:**

The school is crisp and tidy with attractive shrubs, trees and neat lawns. The Catholic Church is visually striking with its unique stone structure character and it was spotlessly clean with appropriate landscaping. The Post Office and Ni Coilean's Bar are well maintained business houses. Unfortunately the closed up premises next to the Post Office detracts from this area with the rusting roof and closed up windows. Milford Market (for sale) is a fine shop premises and hopefully it will be used soon again. Donegans garage was bright and tidy, but the red galvanised roofed house on that road is in urgent need of repair, and looks to be in a dangerous state. Kerry Co Op's main building was fresh and clean with a great stone wall on one side, however, the entrance to the yard on the right hand side is unsightly and could be better presented. The Garda barracks was very well presented. Milford has an attractive mix of private houses and business houses side by side portraying a warm and friendly atmosphere.

### **Landscaping:**

I could see the “footprints” of your committee in many areas with interesting and attractive flowers, shrubs and trees. The signposts to the village are delightful features. The horse shoe shaped stone features in Church place is visually striking with neat stone walls and displaying a variety of colour from the well kept shrubs. Church place has tremendous character with elegant stonework. I admired the small park “Site of Milford Catholic Church 1827 – 1903”, and the display board is very informative and interesting giving the history of times past. All aspects of this park have their own particular charm, notably the plough, wheels, the seating and garden table and the range of shrubs is impressive— well done to all concerned. The bridge and new railings make this a picturesque location. The stone bridge is well maintained, and I admired the two lots of railings that you have put in place. There are some defining architectural qualities to the works done at the riverside, and I wish you well with your proposal to have power connected to the lamps there. The two water pumps are a reminder of how water was supplied to parishioners many years ago, and they are well restored and protected. The tennis court was torn up and work looks to going ahead nicely to erect modern tennis facilities.

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

There is an abundance of wildlife in all those large trees, walls and meadows. You could take on the planting of some more native trees such as oak as they are great sources of food and cover for a large amount of wildlife, and more can be learned on this topic by getting a copy of “Our Trees” ISBN 0-9518612 -5 -5. I note that you state that you have water hens, a crane and some fish present, but I did not see any of them on my visit. I did, however, notice that there appears to some weeds in the river and it could be worthwhile to get this matter inspected.

#### **Litter Control:**

I read that you have an all out effort on litter and it seems to paying off as there were only isolated bits of litter to be seen, with some at the recycling depot. You are making good headway with school and Cork County Council – well done. The litter bins were well serviced and looked tidy.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

I inspected the bring bank at the Co-Op yard, and this is a most unsightly location. There was the usual problem with packaging left near the bins mainly cardboard containers from take away sales of refreshments, and maybe an additional bin could be provided to collect this wrapping. I must say that this problem is widespread and is not confined to Milford. It is good to hear that the householders are segregating the litter and also composting some waste and well done to the schools for their efforts in this regard. You could assist the school in going for the green flag status as already stated.

#### **Tidiness:**

There was a neat and tidy appearance to the village and the streets, paths and side entrances were, mainly, free of weeds and other vegetation. It is a good feeling to find Milford did not have any graffiti to be seen.

#### **Residential Areas:**

Dr Croke Place is securely set off the main road with well maintained houses. Coolnagour Estate is very well maintained. Gort Na h-Abhainn, the new estate, looks a bit deserted. This is most unfortunate, and is to be seen all over Ireland at this time. The new town houses “Forge View” show a sense of pride of place by the residents. There are some wonderful private houses all around the village, and the small stone built houses at the crossroads look splendid. I particularly admired the ivy covered residence in the square.

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

All the roads around the village are in good condition with quite good road signposts. There is a welcoming feeling on meeting the signposts for Milford. The bridge was looking very good, but there is some growths of ivy appearing here and there that will need attention soon. Ivy often conceals damage to such structures caused by passing traffic. The pathways are very well maintained and make it somewhat safer to walk on them. Well done to all concerned.

#### **General Impression:**

I thoroughly enjoyed my visit to Milford. This is a good example of what can be achieved with determination and planning.