

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Milford** Ref: **273**
County: **Donegal** Mark: **207**
Category: **B** Date(s): **23/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	29
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	12
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	12
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	207

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your entry into this year's TidyTowns Competition. Thank you for all of the very useful supporting information that you supplied. It is great to be able to see 'before and after' work. Thank you for the Town Development Plan and for the clear and annotated map. The correspondences were useful too. Well done to all on the Green School project success. This is an important part of the growth of tidy and sustainable towns.

The Built Environment:

Thank you for the comprehensive list of tasks undertaken so far. The Milford Hotel looks very poor. The adjacent Courthouse is a very impressive building. The Post Office, AIB and Centra were all seen to be in good condition on day of visit. The NIB building also looked well. Some of the public houses are outstanding. The HSE building looked very nice, as did the Garda Station. The Public Services Centre is a very impressive building and the avenue up to it looks very well. The hydrant and light at Maggie's Burn were noted. The Milford Community Youth Project building looked very bright. Barret's doesn't look good at all. Was this a school at one stage? The church is impressive.

Landscaping:

The seated area at the top of the town in the little square (the Diamond? No name was seen) has nicely done planting. The benches looked as though they were freshly done and the lampposts here are very nice. The flower bed in front of the Sinn Fein offices needs tending. The planting and landscaping at St. Peter's Church is very well done. There is a very nicely landscaped seating area in front of Barret's on the Ramelton Road. The stone benches are lovely but the vegetation needs to be kept back here. The mural incorporating the street name on the Traveller's Inn is very well done.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your entry did not give a lot of detail on your work in this section. Are there bird boxes at the church? Trail maintenance is a useful initiative. However, this is an area where you could improve. It is suggested that you contact the local Conservation ranger of the National Parks and Wildlife Service for advice on this area. Possible projects could be: a baseline wildlife survey of your area and identification of existing habitat areas in the town. Creation of new habitat with butterfly or bird areas. Erection and maintenance of bird boxes. Lough Shore walks with a birdwatcher. Why not contact groups such as Birdwatch Ireland or the Irish Wildlife Trust for advice? Green Schools are great allies to have in such projects.

Litter Control:

Litter appears to be an ongoing problem for Milford. Litter was seen in several places. The worst area seen was beside the litterbin on the Ramelton Road where there was litter strewn over a large area. Well done on getting the litter audits done by the school. Use the results of this to identify litter blackspots and target your efforts there. Businesses should be involved in this campaign also.

Waste Minimisation:

Well done to the electrical shop for their 'amnesty' on WEEE goods. Please bear in mind the fact that the emphasis of this section of the project is the reduction and minimisation of waste. Work with your Green School on this. Your environmental awareness officer (Donegal County Council) will be able to advise you on this.

Tidiness:

There is a serious lack of street names in Milford. This might be an opportunity to come up with a new set of signs with a custom design. The trees described in the Alphabet Park sign do not seem to be present, defeating the purpose of this sign. Hanging baskets with fake flowers rarely look anywhere near as good as the real thing and are of questionable value. The stylish wooden street signs are lovely but have to be maintained throughout or they will look poor. The painted doors and windows of the old store (a mill?) building was noted. Is the old garage at the bottom of the town now a permanent storage site for old vehicle? It does not look well.

Residential Areas:

The row of houses on Lough Road is very nice. The new stone-fronted townhouses on Church road are very nicely done. The terrace of houses close to Loretto College is very neat. There seems to be an uneven amount of effort committed by the residents of the estates in terms of walls, gardens and window frames. This was seen in both the older and newer estates.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Is there a footpath out to Milford College? A bicycle path would also be good. The town has a Sli na Slainte which is always good at getting people out and about. The location of the town on the Cosan Cholmcille is also very valuable. These walking routes can be put to good use in the creation of looped walks for the town and for the locating of wildlife areas. There are several areas where there are fine stone walls (e.g. Church Road) and the walls on the approach from Ramelton are very nice and a real feature. In contrast, the high walls and railings fronting the new development (is it Lough Fern Heights?) looks dreadful and forbidding.

General Impression:

There are a number of challenges facing Milford. However, your entry gives the strong impression that your group is well-organised and that there is sufficient will among the community to improve. Among the very tangible assets that the town has are some very nice buildings, some interesting historical features and involved schools. Well done on the fundraising and how you spent the money. There is no doubt that upward progress in this competition is ahead for Milford.