

# Tidy Towns Competition 2017

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Milford** Ref: **593**  
County: **Cork(North)** Mark: **303**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **06/07/2017**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2016</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2017</b>
Community Involvement & Planning	60	41	42
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	38	38
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	43	44
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	30	31
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	13	14
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	62	63
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	32	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	39	39
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>303</b>

### **Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:**

Welcome Milford to the 2017 Tidy Towns Competition and congratulations on 21 years of fantastic work improving the quality of life for all who live in and visit Milford. Both your numbers of volunteers and your level of commitment throughout the year are very impressive and indicative of the great community spirit so evident in Milford on my visit there. Co-operation with all the other community groups in the area together with availing of the support and advice of external bodies such as Cork County Council is hugely important for a Tidy Towns Committee and it is great to see you are doing just that. Your planned projects with the local National School sound very interesting and are also important for continuing the Tidy Towns message of looking after our environment on into the future!

### **Built Environment and Streetscape / An Timpeallacht Thógtha agus Sráid-dreacha:**

Milford is a beautiful village with lots of different architectural highlights ranging from the romantic ruins of Kilbolane Castle to the beautifully kept church to the old and new school buildings. The village gives the clear impression of being well looked-after and well-loved. We look forward to the Creamery project coming to fruition as this building complex is so prominent at the heart of Milford and has great potential for different possible future uses. The enamel signs are wonderful and sadly all too rarely seen these days.

### **Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:**

The riverside area is beautiful – a hidden delight that surprised the visitor! The planting is lovely with lots of pollinator-friendly flowers. Your planting work at various flower beds around the village was very evident and everywhere was very well tended. The 1916 Park is a lovely space to sit and relax. It has a good selection of shrubs but might I suggest the addition of a few more herbaceous perennial flowering plants? They will add colour and interest for humans and pollen for our vital pollinators! Cuttings from some of the lovely private gardens around the village would be perfect if their owners agree! Make sure to obtain your free copy of the extremely helpful community version of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan from the National Biodiversity Data Centre ([www.biodiversityireland.ie](http://www.biodiversityireland.ie)). This has lists of perfect plants – you already have some growing around the village e.g. lavender, cinquefoil, penstemon etc. as well as lots of ideas for landscaping and open space projects that will benefit your local biodiversity (humans included!).

### **Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fia dhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádúrtha:**

Your report shows you have had a great biodiversity year in Milford with a wonderful Biodiversity Walk and accompanying report by Albert Nolan. He has provided you with lots of great ideas and advice and shown how much great biodiversity you have on your doorstep in Milford. The G.A.A. grounds have a lovely situation being

encircled by a mature native hedgerow and trees with a walking route underneath. However, the unnecessary use of weed-killer along the grass edges and hedgerow base was disappointing. This is a pesticide and will potentially kill the birds and pollinators that you are trying to encourage with your great biodiversity projects such as the bird boxes and drilled log holes! Milford N.S. is to be congratulated on all the great projects they carried out through the year and they are doing very well on the Green Schools programme attaining their third flag – well done! The infestation of Japanese knotweed on the river banks is very bad but I see from your report that you have been busy getting advice from the right sources. This is one of the few times when herbicide use is really necessary! I note you plan to spray in September 2017 - this is really important and it will need spraying again in May and September 2018. Keep in touch with the specialists in IFI and Ballyhoura Development – take up the latter's offer of help with a Management Plan for the extermination - as this problem is spreading all over Ireland. Riverside infestation is particularly bad news as the plant spreads along the river corridor. Also ensure that Cork County Council are aware of this infestation along the River Deel and of your plans to deal with it as they may be in a position to do the work for you and deal with it themselves similar to their counterparts in other parts of Ireland.

### **Sustainable Waste and Resource Management / Bainistiú Acmhainní agus Dramhaíola Inbhuanaithe:**

Your report shows you are very active in highlighting Waste and Resource Management in your village – even down to the tedious jobs of saving Begonia tubers and taking Geranium cuttings! This is great to hear as changing our mind-sets in relation to waste and resource management is what is needed and soon these new practices will become habits. Congratulations to Milford N.S. on attaining their third Green Flag with some great water conservation projects. Also congratulations to the Milford students reaching the Junk Kouture Finals showing how great imaginations can achieve all sorts when it comes to waste and resource management!

### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

Milford was spotlessly tidy and litter free on the day of the adjudication visit showing how well your regular litter picks are working. It's great to hear that you didn't need to do a second litter collection for the An Taisce Spring Clean – that is very positive progress. It is also great to hear that you are doing the hard job of clearing kerbside weeds manually rather than using weedkiller – this is an important pollinator-friendly action to be highly commended.

### **Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:**

Your report highlights your engagement with residents all over Milford in relation to keeping their areas weed and litter free. This spreading of the work load is important and as I've pointed out earlier Milford appeared very well cared for on the day of adjudication thus reflecting all of the residents' work.

### **Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:**

Milford is approached by beautiful tree and hedgerow-lined roads. All the signs were clean and easy to read. The water pump, wall and old gate at the old Kilbolane N.S. are great features highlighting and framing the view of the lovely old building. It is understandable that it can't be renovated at present but ensuring no further deterioration and that it can be viewed from the road is the best way to deal with it at the moment.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

Milford is clearly a well-loved village making it in turn a lovely spot to visit. Your committee is clearly very active and engaged with many other community groups and specialists. Your Action Plan is very comprehensive and must have been a helpful tool over the last few years. We look forward to seeing your new plan that will help you continue your great work on into the future.