

# Tidy Towns Competition 2018

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Milltown** Ref: **378**  
County: **Kildare** Mark: **271**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **05/07/2018**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2017</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2018</b>
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	35	37
Streetscape & Public Places	50	36	39
Green Spaces and Landscaping	50	36	38
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	20	22
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	11	12
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	54	56
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	31	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	32	34
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>271</b>

### **Community – Your Planning and Involvement / An Pobal - Pleanáil agus Rannpháirtíocht:**

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Milltown Baile an Mhuilinn chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2018 agus chuig Ceiliúradh 60 Bliain an Chomórtais. The village of Milltown is welcomed to the SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition 2018. Thank you for your application form and comprehensive and concise submission. The map provided with your entry was excellent, very clear and well put together, even including drawings of the individual noteworthy features which assisted greatly in the adjudication of your village. The Three Year Plan document and project list 2017/18 is very comprehensive and clearly indicates that you are a very organised group and have considered your planned works to be carried out over the next few years very carefully – well done on this. Your Committee of ten members and twenty volunteers represents a high level of community engagement for a village the size of Milltown and indicates a strong sense of local commitment and community spirit. Well Done. You hold 8 Meetings per year together with 12 ‘Cuppa and Chat’ meetings, so apt for your closely knit ‘Commune-a Tea’ as you put it. Your Committee is supported by a range of organisations and you communicate with the general public through Facebook, Text Alerts, the Parish Missalette and local Newspapers and Radio. There are strong links with the Foróige Youth Club who this year created a Remembrance Garden in the local cemetery. It is great that you focus on projects aimed at strengthening Milltown as a community and building intergenerational solidarity and reducing social isolation, all very laudable goals.

### **Streetscape & Public Places / Sráid-Dreach & Áiteanna Poiblí:**

The development of the Remembrance Garden in the local graveyard is your most treasured project this year. The garden is a very poignant reminder of all those buried there in secret in times past. The work undertaken on the garden has been carried out with great dignity and with respect for those who are no longer with us and the planting of bulbs in a cross formation on the unmarked graves, remembrance service and candlelit procession were considered particularly appropriate. The new concrete path, remembrance stone and the adjoining stone seat were all very well constructed and displayed and the Foróige Group should be immensely proud of their achievements here and in winning the Citizens Awards. Well done to Aidan and Sandra Raleigh who have continued to develop The Inn Licensed premises wonderfully and for re-marking the car-park area to the front of their premises. This has made a significant difference to the overall presentation of the village. The Heritage Centre is a wonderful resource and the Tidy Towns Volunteers who keep open and run this unique facility are to be commended. The information on display in the Heritage Centre on local history and wildlife grabbed the adjudicator’s attention and it was actually very difficult to leave - of particular note here were the intriguing old Church vestments. The presentation of the Scoil Bhríde school building built in 1926 was greatly enjoyed. The Church and adjoining churchyard are beautifully presented. Graves were all well - tended with many flowers as a tribute to the memory of those who have passed away and the ever-strong connection to their loved ones left behind. The looped walk was visited and the Mill Ruins enjoy a lovely pastoral setting along the Canal. Perhaps some further research could be carried out and historical

information on this feature erected on site, particularly because of the association of this building with the name of the village. There was some confusion regarding the location of Fr. Murphy's Well and Whelam's Well. Perhaps the signage could be improved here- you have plans for this. It was wondered what was the significance of old stone piers located in the nearby hedgerow?

### **Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:**

You have removed an old derelict shed from the Canal Bank opposite the Hanged Man's and installed a new gravel surface - this has made a significant improvement to the presentation of this area. The quality of the floral displays in the village was superb e.g at the old village pump, at the entrance to the church and along the frontage of the school. The window boxes at the Heritage Centre were a joy and the yellow railings in the vicinity added great colour to the streetscape. The flower plantings with concrete kerb surrounds around the Milltown signs enlivened the entrance points to the village.

### **Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality / An Dúlra agus an Bhithéagsúlacht i do cheantar:**

The local wildlife information boards at the picnic site near the Hanged Man's adjoining the Canal and start of the looped walk were greatly admired. These are set at a height and position which makes them easy to read for young children and the disabled. The Canal towpath was walked as far as Pollardstown Fen along the canal branch line. This is such a wonderful and unique habitat to have on your doorstep. Further along the Canal, the so-called Canal Jib was encountered, an interesting piece of functional engineering in it's day and now a wonderful wildlife habitat. The old unoccupied cottage on the Allenwood road was well camouflaged with windows and doors finished to enhance the appearance of the façade. There was a delightful wildflower meadow in the front garden here, which was buzzing with activity.

### **Sustainability – Doing more with less / Inmharthanacht - Mórán ar an mbeagán:**

Your Committee has been involved in a number of initiatives under this category over the last year such as installing new water butts at the Church and the School to harvest rainwater for maintenance of floral displays. Greater use of public transport locally has resulted from the introduction of a new rural bus service to Newbridge. The new dual use recycling bin at the school was admired and no doubt this will reduce the amount of locally collected waste going to landfill. For next year, or alternatively as part of your 3 Year Plan, you could consider the promotion of greater use of solar panels and insulation to reduce energy consumption in local homes and buildings, such as the Heritage Centre and thereby reduce CO2 emissions. Grants are now available from the Government to support these improvements and the Tidy Towns Committee could highlight these with local residents. Further water conservation and rainfall harvesting/storage measures, to facilitate the watering of private gardens, should also be encouraged. With regard to sustainable transport, it would be good to explore a pilot car-pooling initiative for the Village and perhaps consider plans for the development of a greenway/blueway along the Canal Loop or maybe to Pollardstown Fen, with dedicated cycle routes. Electric vehicle charging infrastructure needs to be expanded around the country and perhaps a charge point could be installed at a suitable location in Milltown village?

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

It is noted that 3 new bins have been installed in the village, thanks to the efforts of Kildare County Council and it will be good to know that local schoolchildren will be segregating the waste they place in the dual recycling bin located near the school. The very attractive signage on the approach to Milltown reinforces the message encouraging people not to litter in your village. On the day of adjudication no litter was found in Milltown, in the surrounding areas or along the canal. This is a testament to the efforts of the local residents, the Tidy Towns Committee and the two CES Scheme workers who pick up discarded litter in the village and along approach roads on weekday mornings. It is disappointing to note that dumping is taking place at Maud's Bog. Perhaps preventative measures such as CCTV monitoring and enforcement might work to control this anti-social activity.

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

It is clear that all the estates in Milltown make great a effort to enhance their entrances and communal areas with a view to improving the appearance of the village as a whole. The splendid floral displays at Fenview Heights creates very attractive approach to village. Clongownagh Estate was noted for it's beautiful trees and hedging at the entrance to the estate which enhanced the setting here. It is easy to see the local residents take great pride in their area. Perhaps some herbaceous perennial planting could be provided around the estate namestone. The flagpoles and monument at Millview to mark the winning of the Kildare tidy estates competition 1996 was greatly admired. It was noted that a polytunnel, compost area and new bin have been installed on the open space. The whole area at Millview was delightfully maintained and presented.

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

The Welcome signs to the village of Milltown with floral displays, retained by concrete kerb planters, are delightfully presented. Thanks are due to Kildare County Council for replacing the old signs here. All approaches to Milltown village are very welcoming to the visitor and are generally very pleasing. Road signage is clean and not obscured by vegetation and road surfaces and markings are mostly good. New road surfacing and marking is, however needed on the approach to Milltown from the Kildare side. Road markings in village core are quite faint in places i.e. in the vicinity of the main junction and could also be renewed. The approach from Newbridge is attractive and consists a combination of agricultural hedgerows and well-tended front gardens to private dwellings. It is quite obvious that great pride is taken by Milltown residents to maintain all the approach roads to the village to such a

high standard. Well done.

**Concluding Remarks:**

It was a pleasure to visit and adjudicate your lovely village. Because of the many wonderful features and community spirit, the village has great potential and can progress well in the competition. Keep up the good work.