

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **MILLSTREET**
County : **CORK**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 05-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	30
The Built Environment	40	30	27
Landscaping	40	31	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	15
Litter Control	40	26	24
Tidiness	20	11	11
Residential Areas	30	20	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	26
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	204	188

Millstreet, Co. Cork

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The Tidy Town and Tourism Association's 5-year Development Plan is impressive and genuine, systematically identifying projects and scheduling improvements on a year to year basis. It is good to see a continuing relationship with the Local Authority and other bodies. The itinerary suggested on the 4-page preamble was followed on adjudication day, in conjunction with the information map.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The major achievement has been the reinstatement of St. Anna's tower and graveyard. The adjudicator recalls mentioning the importance of the tower as a local landmark some years ago, and it is a real pleasure to see the result of the Committee's fine initiative. The clock-faces are a splendid and useful addition. The challenge now will be to maintain the building and surrounds at the high standard achieved. (An instructive project for school children might be to identify dates and names on the headstones, try and trace the background of the families - are there still Fabers, Moriartys, Campions in the district, for instance?) Business premises are generally well kept; among these, the Centra supermarket looked very well, as did the repainted hotel (a pity to see PVC window frames on a mid-19c facade, however). There is very little dereliction; however, a building to the right of the bridge as you come from Killarney appeared to be in need of attention. The factories mentioned above, and the new Garage on the Mallow road, are unusually well presented.

LANDSCAPING

Excellent landscaping and planting, particularly along the Mallow road, has been maintained at a high standard from previous years. Recent planting at the entrance to the hilltop estate off this road is very good indeed. The preponderance of shrubs over annuals was very favourably noted in the larger landscaping schemes, including those at the Molex and Alps factories, and at the Telecom premises. The green space with picnic tables at Murphy's Terrace is an excellently maintained amenity. The grounds of the Arena and the adjacent school are very well kept; a hedge in whatever grows best in the neighbourhood (hawthorn and escalonias seem to flourish) might eventually replace the roadside fence at the school. Small areas of planting here and there add visual interest, as do window boxes and hanging baskets on a number of buildings. Your tree-planting programme is very impressive.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The preservation of old timber, the active exposure of streams and the creation of the wild-life area, were noted with pleasure. A number of locations where the country meets the urban environment, such as the tree-shaded approach to the Hospital,

are a real bonus inherited from the past. The establishment of signposted walks, and the erection of illustrated informational panels on local flora and fauna, might be added to some stage of the 5-Year Plan. There are other suggestions in the Tidy Towns booklet, and in the sheet provided by Conservation Volunteers Ireland.

LITTER CONTROL

This was good on adjudication day. Congratulations.

TIDINESS

Weed control was also good, except in a very few isolated areas such as an unnamed commercial premises near the back of the Arena, and kerbside weed in Murphy's Terrace. Perhaps after the current 5-Year Plan has been completed, attention might be given to removal of wirescapes and unsightly poles.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The older plastered and painted terraced houses are what really gives Millstreet its character, and these are improving every year. More recent housing, particularly on and adjacent to the Mallow Road, is of a high standard, and many pleasant gardens were noticed. New housing near the Industrial Estate is promising.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Surfaces and paving are good. The main approach roads are well kept. Most side entrances are well looked after. Car parks at the Arena, opposite the Church, and at Duggans are all well surfaced and were practically litter-free at the time of adjudication; the latter is rather bleak - some peripheral planting would help, without removing parking space.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Very important developments have taken place over the past year, and will continue over the next four years. Millstreet suddenly seems to have taken an imaginative leap, and it is likely that the town will feature in the top league of Tidy Towns before very long if this impetus is maintained.