

*"Caring for our environment"*

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

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 26-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	38
The Built Environment	40	33	31
Landscaping	40	33	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	28	28
Tidiness	20	14	15
Residential Areas	30	23	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	8	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>217</b>

## **Millstreet, County Cork**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for your comprehensive plan and map of the town with the guided tour for the adjudicator. This was most helpful and together with the adjudicators own travels within the town the suggested tour was adopted to great avail. The enormous length of village that has to be treated makes the efforts achieved very remarkable and worthy of praise. The level of permanent plantings and tree plantings projects show great commitment. Your continued co-operation with local bodies has proved its worth. In a town of this size a tidy towns committee cannot do everything and the linking with other bodies enables so much to be completed.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

There is a very good standard of shop and business presentation in the main street and on the Macroom Road with the Banks in particular looking well. So many shops now look well that instead of - as in the past, a list of very good shops would be made in a report, now the list of those needing attention would be shorter. This is all the more reason that efforts should be made to bring all up to the highest standards. The Church is a very fine building. The front is particularly attractive. The sidewall needs some attention as discoloration is occurring. The Town Hall building is very valuable and has been put to great use. The stone walls of the town are a great credit and the continuing development of these is great. The carpark offers a great relief to traffic cluttering up the main streets. The stone piers and the pebble dashed walls are well done. As in so many towns in Ireland in recent years with the opening up of carparks and laneway shopping places, the exposure of the backs of buildings becomes apparent that hitherto were never seen. Backs of buildings are often not the most attractive and this presents a new challenge. There are a number of unsightly rusty tin roofs exposed and less than attractive back areas. The Graces Hair premises are an example of dealing with the situation. The renovation of the St. Anna's graveyard and tower is a marvellous project and has enhanced the town greatly adding another fine feature.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The enormous amount of planting all along the entrance road from the Banteer junction is very impressive. Much of this is tree planting and there is a great deal of permanent planting of shrubs which means that these areas are attractive at all times of the year. The large grassed areas are well maintained and must require a phenomenal amount of time for maintenance. At the Community school the most impressive tree planting of hard wood trees by the roadside boundary is a

credit to those concerned. These trees will be benefiting future generations, as are the large trees in our countryside now from the plantings of previous generations. The Town Park is both functional and attractive. With walking or seating available or a choice of sports activities for some. The riverside treatment on the road to the industrial estate is well planned beside the housing estate. Is the post and wire mesh really necessary there? The treatment of the mountain ash trees in the main street seems unfortunate. This particular form of mountain ash is very upright and narrow growing, cutting them as has been done does not help their natural form – a form ideal for street planting. The new amenity area on the Clara road is being developed and offers potential. The industrial estate is well landscaped and helps the buildings submerge to the background.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Some further consideration should be given to this aspect. The river could offer potential but it is understood that access is a problem. A riverwalk is an ideal feature for development and further discoveries could be made in this regard.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

The standard of litter control is good. Some litter was spotted in various locations but usually small items rather than accumulations. This of course is a national problem and only by constant reminding of people especially the young that they may grow up with a high degree of awareness of litter control.

### **TIDINESS**

The main streets exhibit a high level of tidiness. As already mentioned the backs of buildings that become exposed with new developments are often not the most tidy of places and this offers a challenge. The site beside the Funeral Home, which is fenced off, is not the most attractive approach to the park. The raised planters at the front of the museum carpark are well planted - it would be nice to plant up those by the side. The old petrol/garage on the approach road near DairyGold is less than a tidy feature.

### **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

There is a high standard of housing maintenance in the town. The many different styles of housing – from the large individual homes to the estates and the terraces as out along the Macroom road all have their special character. The maintenance is vital as so often in a row of well-kept houses one or two offending houses can take from an entire setting.

### **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

The main streets and approach roads are looking very well. All

the work required to keep the long approach to the main street from the Banteer junction is paying-off well and gives a very nice road appearance. Back areas and laneways vary and this is an area for future concentration..

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Millstreet shows that there is a great commitment to keeping standards high. This could not be done if it were not for dedicated people who participate in the tidy towns committee. Co-operate with other bodies to achieve the targets and be open to suggestion or practical comments.

### **SECOND ADJUDICATION ( 06/08/00)**

The busy town of Millstreet looked well cared for on an August adjudication day. The colourful nasturtiums at the welcome signs on approach roads looked most cheerful. Some litter was apparent throughout the town but generally the impression was one of a neat and ordered appearance. The side wall of the church is in need of some attention before next year's competition. The Main Street of the town looked extremely well – it is encouraging to note the marvellous improvements to the built environment in relation to shop front replacement - it is all too easy to apply a merely cosmetic solution with the use of window boxes and hanging baskets. The Garda Station and Post Office both looked extremely fresh as did the mural (flags of the nations) commemorating the Eurovision Song Contest. The adjudicator was pleased to note the ongoing construction of stone walls throughout the town. Millstreet is always a pleasure to visit as its residents share a common civic pride which is very apparent in its high standard of presentation.