

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Millstreet**

Ref: **520**

County: **Cork North**

Mark: **234**

Category: **C**

Date: **03/08/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	38
The Built Environment	40	34	34
Landscaping	40	36	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	16
Litter Control	40	31	28
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	28
General Impression	10	8	7
TOTAL MARK	300	234	224

Overall Developmental Approach:

The notes supplied with the application form and the map were most helpful at adjudication time and provided excellent guidance through the town. The development plan containing progress assessment is a very comprehensive document. This shows that great efforts have been made and that there is very good co-operation with local interest parties. Progress is very good in Millstreet and over the years a great amount has been achieved. The continuing work is welcome. There are always new challenges to be met and the best approach to cope with these is by good planning.

The Built Environment:

The museum and Catholic church form an important focal point of the town. The buildings around the carpark – community and youth Centre, the very fine children's play area, funeral home and GAA premises are all well presented. The colourful display of painted stones by the community centre is novel. The St Anna's Church is an important historic site and the well-restored clock tower is a unique landmark. The banks occupy strategic places in the town and are well presented. The building construction in progress in front of the banks on the corner of the street is causing some disruption at the present. There is a very well tended array of well-painted business premises through the town and this, together with the residential housing, gives a very attractive colour impression of the town. Some premises still need attention, either to décor or structure, and these stand out more as the standards rise around them. Sites such as the corner of the Railway Road, the closed petrol station on the approach road and the premises at Mill View. The structure of Regans

Mill is unattractive and anything that could be done to alleviate this difficulty would be good. The work of cleaning with power hose, as stated in the submission, was a helpful approach. The painted portion of the Catholic church also calls for attention. The railway station is an attractive building and well presented. The many stonewalls constructed around the town are a lovely feature of Millstreet and add greatly to the store of the built environment. Skill in wall building and the availability of natural stone has done wonders for Millstreet.

Landscaping:

There is marvelous landscaping over a considerably long stretch of approach road on the Mallow road. This gives an impressive and a lovely entrance with so many roadside trees and shrub plantings. The care and attention given to these and to the grass verges associated with them is exceptional. The smaller landscaped areas in the town were noted, particularly at the Clara Road, where the heather border and picnic table is placed. The fountain was working well. Planting has yet to take place in the associated raised borders in that area. The industrial estate shows good displays of plantings appropriate to the nature of the sites. Picnic tables and grassed areas were admired. The Tubrid Well surroundings are attractively maintained. The railway station's hanging baskets give a very cheerful look at the station platform. The town park and sports areas provide beautiful strolling grounds, as well as fulfilling their sports function. The surrounding trees create a very attractive setting.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Wild life projects specific to the areas mentioned in the application submission would be helpful. Local knowledge about what, when and where particular wild life can be observed in the locality would be beneficial and if this was compiled it could be handed on to younger generations. This, associated with the survey work and the provision of wild life areas, would be ideal

Litter Control:

There is a good standard of litter control within the town and this is very welcome. There are minor amounts of litter on the streets in places, but generally a very clean appearance is to be credited.

Tidiness:

The area of the mart on the Station Road and Regans Mill continue to present a problem under this heading. Road works on the Station Road are in progress and, hopefully, will repair many of the surface deficiencies on the road there. The area behind Hegarty Street is a little untidy. The mural near the church, while it is a lovely feature, is beginning to fade and maybe some upgrading or restoring is now needed. Overhead cables through the streets are unsightly. Many towns have succeeded in having these placed underground and by continual lobbying this would be a worthwhile objective to have completed. The site next to the funeral home needs some attention to weediness, being in such a prominent place. The cemetery on the Mallow Road is well maintained while the graveyard beside the Catholic church requires some attention.

Residential Areas:

The many on-street residences are very attractive and the painting and décor is very bright and interesting; for example, on Church Street, Minor Row and Hegarty Street. This adds to the overall appearance of the town. The houses at Murphy Terrace and Drishane View are well maintained, as are those at Mount Leader and the small housing estate on the Clara Road with the lovely green space plantings alongside them. Open spaces within housing estates need very good maintenance. While the tree planting is excellent at Drishane View the maintenance of the open spaces around them could be improved considerably. The old houses at the start of the Clara Road are interesting and add further character to the town. The new town houses beyond the tourist office and museum building are well finished and add a new dimension in housing to Millstreet

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Roads are in good condition and the care and attention to roadside verges in all approach roads is noteworthy. Footpaths in place through the town are broken and some attention to these will be needed. The bi-lingual nameplates are a nice addition. The well painted white railings extending for many metres along the roadside on the Mallow Road looks very fresh.

General Impression:

Millstreet continues to progress and develop. The tree planting on the Mallow Road is more and more significant each year as these mature. Planning and hard work appear to be the key of success in Millstreet

Second Round Adjudication:

It was a pleasure to visit Millstreet for second adjudication this year. The new Millstreet Country Park is a wonderful development which complements the Town Park and opens up more opportunities for an appreciation of wildlife and natural amenities. The only criticism is that it is probably out of reach of lower income families due to the twenty euro admission charge and the distance from the town. It would be worthwhile developing local walks and nature trails from the town centre to Slí na Slainte standards. The Station Road is probably the least well presented in terms of road surface and boundary walls. Congratulations on new street furniture; we anticipate the ducting of service cables and the featuring of street lighting on attractive lampstandards. A fine presentation overall.