

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Millstreet**

Ref: **231**

County: **Cork North**

Mark: **243**

Category: **C**

Date: **03/08/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	42	39
The Built Environment	40	34	34
Landscaping	40	36	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	19
Litter Control	40	32	31
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	25	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	29
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	243	234

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for an excellent submission and detailed information on your work programme. Thank you also for the three-page tour of the town. We commend you on your three-year plan and your indications of a phased development. This the way forward and your close liaison with the Cork County Council is beneficial in both directions. It was quite an experience for this adjudicator making a first inspection of this centre. You have a very large area under adjudication and the lengthy approach from Mallow in particular is demanding on your efforts. There is an air of caring in Millstreet and the great work of previous years continues to enhance the area. You are also a beneficiary of the great planting carried out by a previous generation which is a good illustration of the value of tree planting for the next generation. You are endowed with a pleasant landscape, not least of all the attractive hills surrounding the town, some very good buildings, both old and new, a well laid out town centre, a town park and numerous individual gardens of distinction, all combining to present the town to a high standard.

The Built Environment:

Public buildings looked well again this year and many have rich landscaping. The church is well presented and the St. Anna's church remains is well kept and provides an important link with this historic building. The information plaque is admirable, and the clock works too. The Community School is one of the best in the county: it's really neat and tidy. The building beside St. Anna's church is very poor in presentation: could it be painted?. Both banks were excellent in presentation

again this year. The old mill on station road is poor and some dereliction beside it is holding your marks down in this section. We liked the railway station and notice it is running now for over 150 years. Could No.s 307 and 308 be restored, they are very interesting buildings and very much a part of the railway's history. We read with interest that the mart has been acquired by the local authorities and we await appropriate development.

Landscaping:

This is undoubtedly your strong point and the plethora of landscaping areas is most praiseworthy. The approach from Mallow is excellent and lavishly landscaped thereby projecting a most welcoming image for the town. The picnic site on the Mallow approach is excellent and we were a little early on first inspection for the completed display board. Indeed, you have worked hard on picnic sites and those at Murphy Tce., Clara approach and elsewhere are commendable. Also the seating at the Finnow river is well maintained and well positioned. You have good displays of colour thanks to a combination of flower beds, window boxes, hanging baskets at the bridge and numerous excellent individual effort throughout. The industrial estate commands a wonderful view of the surrounding area and is one of the best landscaped industrial estates in the region. Last and best praise belongs to the Town Park which is superb. On adjudication evening it was a hive of activity with not one or two, but three juvenile hurling matches in progress: Eamonn de Valera's manifestation of 'the contest of athletic youth' in full swing. The park has some excellent tree planting and a well presented children's playing area with safety mats: well done.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You have opportunity here to raise your marks and we urge you to fulfil your aims for the promotion of wildlife. The river area and generous landscaping provides ideal habitat for wildlife.

Litter Control:

Litter control was very good and litter was being picked up by at least one activist at 8-15 p.m. on the eve of adjudication day. The main street in particular was litter free and litter control is obviously taken seriously in Millstreet. The recycling centre is fair in presentation but certainly in good demand: no great abuse in evidence.

Tidiness:

Your problems here relate to some dereliction and poorly presented boundary walls. The road from the station has some poorly presented farm gates and entrances: farm gates in general can be attractive and should be painted a strong colour. There are also pockets of commercial operations below standard: you still have you problem with the disused fuel station on the Mallow approach.

Residential Areas:

Residential areas are way above average and many excel. You have extensive grass areas to cut and this is demanding on your energy. You need to get the residents themselves taking control of grass cutting in as many areas as possible: e.g., the grass around the attractive trees at Drishane View housing estate is smothering the trees and taking from the appearance of this attractive area. We suggest you organise the residents to purchase a mower of their own and operate a rota. Altamont housing estate is well presented and grass area well controlled. We commend the policy of infill for housing and the example of the five houses on the Green Glens approach is ideal. You have raised your marks in this category and some excellent individual effort was very much in evidence.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The road structure is good in all areas. Car parking is well signposted and well laid out. The street signage is excellent and very legible, also housing estate signs, always a delight for any adjudicator.

The visit to Tubrid was a revelation and surpassed the perception from its mere mention on the map: the largest well in Ireland or Britain according to the notice. It is excellent in presentation and ascetically attractive. One small suggestion, you need to improve the signage as you are underselling its magnitude. Green Glens deserves praise for an excellent equestrian presentation and layout: we wish it continued success. The fountain opposite the church was attractive and working. We suggest you clean up the monument in the square and refurbish the inscription on the pedestal.

General Impression:

A delight to visit and stay among you, even for one night. This town is a great example of mixing 21st century industrial progress with 19th century elegance in great harmony. The tidy towns movement can be proud of the part it is playing and we wish you well in your further endeavours.

Second Round Adjudication:

It was a pleasure to visit Millstreet on the occasion of second adjudication, the town looked magnificent on this day. Well done on a steady progress in the competition over the last number of years, on the wire scape free status of your main street and on infill and new developments: the large new development at the junction of the Square and Church Street was particularly admired and it was a pleasure to note the sash windows here. The entrance from the Macroom road is enhanced by the colour scheme of the nicely presented terrace of single storey dwellings. Other developments along this road need some improvements to their boundary wall as do boundary walls in the general environs of Murphy's Terrace. Carparking is orderly throughout the town and appears to be sufficient for your needs. The Town Park and the Railway Station are both excellent in presentation. Litter control was strong. Service boxes at St. Annas Church could be improved in appearance or preferably removed altogether. The landscaped junction on the Macroom road at the grotto was very much admired and other landscaped areas on approach roads were admired also. The scenic view of hills from the town centre is an added bonus.