

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Millstreet**

Ref: **41**

County: **Cork North**

Mark: **247**

Category: **C**

Date: **12/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	43	42
The Built Environment	40	35	34
Landscaping	40	37	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	20
Litter Control	40	31	32
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	33	32
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	247	243

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for submission and details of work planned and work on hand. We note you are coming to the end of your development plan which now needs to be revisited. It was heartening to note you have tackled many of the problems outlined in last year's report and this is commendable. Your 'before and after' photographs are excellent and illustrate the progress achieved, well done. You are also conscious of your problem areas and you outline your intentions to remedy same. Your plan has served you well and illustrates the value of working towards phased developments.

The Built Environment:

We note the church is fund raising for restoration and we hope the targets will be achieved. This is an important building on a prominent location in the town. We admired the AIB and Bank of Ireland for an attractive display of flowers and good overall presentation. You have a problem with the unoccupied house beside the Centra Stores which is now deteriorating and presenting a black spot. Are there plans for improvement or refurbishment? As usual St. Anna's church tower looked well on this commanding site. No progress with the adjacent building. The Central Hardware Stores would benefit from painting and perhaps could be tackled for next year.

Landscaping:

This is surely one of your strong points and despite the rich array of shrubbery and tree planting we notice new developments in many parts of the town. This is most praiseworthy and adds colour to the town. The park which received such lavish praise last year continues to be maintained to a high standard: one of the best in the region. The landscaping at the Millstreet Gym is really sweet. We also noticed work on hand at the entrance to Mount Leader housing estate. The footpaths in this area are also acknowledged with praise. Our first adjudication was too early for the planting of the water feature opposite church but may mentioned in the second adjudication. We made the usual visit to the Railway Station and found it very colourfully presented. Credit to all concerned in this attractive presentation. Its features are special and worthy of continued maintenance.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

We note your new developments in this section and commend you. Your tree planting and selected wildlife areas continues to support your marks in this section. Generally there has been immense improvement in wildlife appreciation throughout the competition and the Heritage Council in Kilkenny has published a very helpful book on this subject.

Litter Control:

Always a problem in urban and built up areas you have coped well despite the appearance of pockets of litter. On the steps at the end of Mill Well where the road links up with Station road is a litter trap, principally from fast food outlets. The area from the steps also overlooks unsightly rusty corrugated sheds. This might be tackled in time.

Tidiness:

Your problems here relate to unoccupied open spaces, some dereliction and poorly presented buildings. This will only be solved in time as has already been illustrated by the removal of the Mart since last year. We acknowledge your problems in this area and urge you not to give up on solving the problem. We also noticed the new display outlining the success of the 1993 European Song Contest. Also the town and area maps with attractive photographic illustrations are beneficial to the many visitors to Millstreet.

Residential Areas:

Like most developing towns you are experiencing your share of house developments, and how extensive they look in appearance. We can only hope that the commitment from the occupiers in building them will extend to closer association and participation in your Tidy Towns efforts. Housing estates are well presented and some individuals excel in presenting their gardens to a high colourful standard.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The road structure is excellent throughout the town and also the approach roads. We congratulate Cork Co. Council on the speed with which they demolished and developed the former Mart site. We again urge you to landscape the War of Independence Memorial on the Main Street and this could be an attractive feature and afford visitors an opportunity to see it free from car parking. The new Civic Amenity Centre is superb and well worthy of a nomination for a Bring Bank category prize, which has been introduced into this year's competition. This development provides a standard for others to pursue and we applaud Cork Co. Council

General Impression:

An other fine performance by Millstreet. You are coping well with new and existing developments and your attention to detail in landscaping especially is praiseworthy. Your challenge now is to

maintain your standards, tackle the black spots and encourage greater cooperation and participation from new residents. The commercial life of Millstreet is vital to your environmental, entertaining as it does agriculture and industry with favourable compatibility. You are still a market town and it is important to preserve the rural ethos of this area. Good luck for 2006.

Second Round Adjudication:

Millstreet is an unusually long town. The standard all along the length of this very long town is consistently high with great care and attention given to roadside plantings, trees, verges, the appearance of front gardens lining the way and many businesses and housing estates. Great credit is due for this very fine presentation. Investment in tree planting over past years is now paying great dividends. The area around the museum/ library is very attractively presented. The town park is a marvellous facility and very well utilised. The standard of care of the mounded surrounds at the town park is particularly attractive with the well-mown grass, trees and seating. The Tubrid well is a lovely feature. Business premises and housing within the town show good standards and the small number of buildings needing attention is dwindling. The Church and adjoining building hopefully will benefit from the fund raising soon to alleviate their state. New road surfaces on the Clara road and footpaths give a very crisp appearance and the entrances to the housing estates on that road are attractive. The recycling centre seemed very impressive at this adjudication with attractive entrance and orderly layout. Many colourful containerised plantings give a very cheerful look to the town including those on the railway platform.