

# Tidy Towns Competition 2006

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Millstreet** Ref: **480**  
County: **Cork (North)** Mark: **262**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **19/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	44
The Built Environment	50	36
Landscaping	50	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	22
Litter Control	50	32
Waste Minimisation	20	9
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	33
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>262</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Your work programme made very interesting reading and the adjudicator was pleased to note that you had updated it to include the next number of years. There are many businesses in the town that can help you with your work both financially and physically. The bi-monthly meetings are a good idea as the more frequently you meet, the better. You mention your work with the local schools but perhaps you could liaise more directly with the students themselves rather than just with the principals. The adjudicator read your comments in relation to the advantage that you feel smaller towns have in the competition, but, in fact, the competition has been won over the last number of years by larger towns, so it is entirely possible! Many thanks for your clear map which was most useful on the day. Good luck with your work with Cork County Council in relation to the improvement of 2 derelict properties in the town. Your "before" and "after" photos are most effective at showing your achievements.

### **The Built Environment:**

The standard in this category was generally good. The centrally located Church looked fine with its attractive flowers peeping over the wall. What is the situation with the open area beside it? It appears to be the subject of a planning appeal and, at the moment, looks quite unfortunate. The Credit Union looked well as did the AIB and Bank of Ireland, both of which had attractive window boxes and are fine imposing stone and brick buildings. The Boy's National School looked well, and had attractive grounds to the front, but its goal posts and basketball posts will need painting before next year's competition. Both the Post Office and the Garda Station looked very fresh. An attractive wrought iron balcony to a building in the centre town was greatly admired for its fine workmanship. The Co-Op looked neat but could do with some more landscaping to its front area, although its side landscaped area was greatly admired. Wordsworth was quite fresh, as was Centra. The Community School looked well with attractively maintained banked grounds.

**Landscaping:**

This is an area of the competition that you obviously enjoy immensely. There are some attractive incidental landscaped spaces throughout the town, such as that to the cul de sac with attractive nasturtium display. The playground and park area looked well, although the warning signage at the entrance in regard to litter etc needs some work to it and some litter was apparent to the car park area. The attractive fountain at the main road at the entrance to the park and car park was tinkling away on the day! The picnic area on the Mallow road was well maintained and the graveyard looked well. The Turbid Well area was very fresh with an attractive altar and well maintained grounds. The back wall of the car park should be repainted before next year's competition. There is an abundance of permanent planting throughout the town which looks quite lush and will give year round effect! Attractive planting at the junction of the road to the Green Glens Arena was greatly admired.

**Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

Then provision of a wildlife area to the River Finnow on the Clara road is commendable as is your work with regard to the planting of 200 trees on approach roads – well done.

**Litter Control:**

The standard in this category was quite good although there were minor outbreaks such as outside Centra and to the car park area of the town park. A single bottle was noted on the Mallow road to its planted area. Good luck with your work in relation to the reduction of the number of cigarette butts outside the pubs – this is a common problem since the smoking ban!

**Waste Minimisation:**

The new civic amenity centre looked very smart with attractive planting and low stone wall outside. Well done on the promotion of its use. For further ideas on progressing this aspect of the competition read your Tidy Towns Handbook and Race Against Waste brochure. Do local schools take part in the Green Flags programme?

**Tidiness:**

There are a number of derelict areas as you have commented upon yourselves and these need to be addressed - 2 derelict cottages on the cul de sac looked unfortunate. The castellated gate lodge and entrance area on the Mallow road was greatly admired and it and its gates should be repainted before next year's competition, as should the concrete post and rail fence on this road. There was still the evidence of Christmas decorations on some properties. An old petrol station on the Mallow road appeared to have been abandoned - are there plans for this area? The railway station and its car park area looked extremely well and its attractive gate was admired. This is an area that can be problematic in many towns. This is a fine example to many!

**Residential Areas:**

These were generally good. Attractive gardens on the Mallow road were greatly admired, and appeared to have extended their areas of interest to the roadside verges. There were a couple of lovely rose gardens on either side of the road. The new Tan Yard Wood estate on this road with its stone wall to the front and attractive logo was greatly admired. There were some lovely single storey cottages on this road -1 with a wonderful display of nasturtiums, another similar terrace on the Killarney road looked well. The gable wall to the Laurels B&B should be painted before next year's competition. The striking modern house adjacent to the Green Glens Arena was greatly admired. An attractive garden with low stone wall with nasturtiums clambering over it and another with montbretia on the road to the station made a positive impression.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Pavement surfaces were patchy in some areas where tarmac was filling in where holes had been dug. Directional signage in the centre at the cul de sac looked quite grubby. In terms of street furniture, the perforated metal seats to the front of the Wallace Arms need re-painting. Approach roads were generally quite well maintained. The Mallow road is an attractive lead into town with its overhanging trees. The road to the well was extremely well maintained.

**General Impression:**

Millstreet is a busy market town which continues to show a great pride of place. It generally looked well on adjudication day and was quite fresh, neat and impressive.

