

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Millstreet** Ref: **480**
County: **Cork (North)** Mark: **269**
Category: **C** Date(s): **15/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	45
The Built Environment	50	37
Landscaping	50	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	22
Litter Control	50	34
Waste Minimisation	20	9
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	34
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	269

Overall Development Approach:

Many thanks for the completed application form together with the very helpful booklet containing Tours of Millstreet, three year programme and especially the Map which was very useful on the day of adjudication. We liked also the before and after photographs.

Collectively your submission together with inspection on the ground underscores the fact that your Tidy Towns Committee are energetic, imaginative, creative and effective. We applaud the various achievements as enumerated in your Notes to Judges.

Tree planting screening is suggested for the major steel holding company on the approach road. The multi-coloured houses are a delight to observe. The co-ordinated yet very different colours make for a splendid impression. The treatment for St. Anne's Churchyard is very appropriate and adds considerable interest because of the interpretative plaques you have installed. The presentation of the Roman Catholic Church was equally of interest. Clearly you have some difficulties with derelict sites but it is pleasing to note that progress towards a solution is uppermost in your mind and equally we were pleased to note work in progress on one such. The Community School was very freshly painted with a range of shrubs and trees which were very pleasant.

The structured manner of your three year plan and the successes completed to date augers well for a full and final development over time of your ambitious plans.

The Built Environment:

Several buildings enhance their streetscape, The Bank of Ireland, a solid stone building, St. Anne's Church already mentioned and the Citizen's Information Service looking well with fresh yellow and red paint. The

Garda Station also was well presented with five flower bins in front. Millstreet Motor Factors were well painted and the A.I.B. looked imposing. Credit Union House, in a visually important location, projected solidarity and gravitas.

The small scale Post Office was neat, while Breen's Pharmacy, McCarthy's Bar and O'Flynn & Banteen were all positive elements. The 'Oregon Bush' advertising display on the gable end of the Pub was somewhat out of scale in that setting.

Landscaping:

The Committee are working through a programme which when completed will undoubtedly add considerable lustre to the overall presentation of Millstreet. Already the Grotto looked quite well while there was excellent tree planting and planters outside the Catholic Church. The shrubs at Green Glen Corner looked most effective while the grounds of the Community School were exceptionally well presented. The raised garden at the start of Millview Street, albeit small scale, was a very effective use of this space. The small picnic area at the junction on Clara Road was appealing while the presentation of Tubrid Well was appropriate. The planting on Mallow Road was colourful and we very much liked the display of Eurovision flags, relating to the famous Eurovision competition and success here on the same street.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The selection of the Finnow River at Clara Road for a Wildlife Centre is appropriate. The planting of native, berry bearing trees and scrubs is an important element as wildlife by definition necessarily depends on the availability of suitable food chain. An area within the Community School might also be utilised in this context. Discuss the matter with a local Wildlife/Bird enthusiast or seek advice from the Wildlife Officer attached to the Office of Public Works. While a certain scale is desirable, smaller, incidental spaces can also be utilised to good effect and will make their contribution to bird life.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter management was very apparent on the day of adjudication. While minor amounts were still noted near the West End and at Tubrid Well, in general the Main Street and Mallow Road were clear. The availability of litter bins was adequate, their settings appropriate and their design suitable for the task in hand.

Waste Minimisation:

The Bring Centre, in Station Road was well presented with the recessed entrance area clear of disfiguring litter or abandoned items. This is clearly a significant advantage and enhancement of the Town's facilities. In addition, to physical, on the ground solutions, it is necessary to seek to effect a change in the mindset of the population at large. The three pronged concept of reduce waste, reuse where appropriate and recycle wherever possible will cumulatively have the effect of minimising the amount of waste that must be taken to Landfill. Please read the Race against Waste Literature and also your Tidy Towns Handbook for ideas. Do consider staging a Waste Reduction Forum as these have proved very helpful in getting the message across to a wider audience.

Tidiness:

The major work in hand on the new pavement was noted and due allowances made. While we understand that the site of Station Road has been earmarked for a new Fire Station in time, in the interim, the door of the existing Fire Station requires repainting as it is very drab. The abandoned filling station on the Mallow Road is still with you and we wish you well with your plans to improve matters here. We echo the comments made last year about the splendid presentation of your Railway Station and the area around it. The removal of the overhead wires in the Square/Main Street is a distinct advantage and we welcome your plans to extend this wire free zone to other parts of your centre.

Residential Areas:

Individual Houses and Estates made a worthwhile contribution to an overall pleasing presentation under this heading. The splendid traditional houses on Killarney Road and also some houses on Hegarty Street caught the eye. The Housing Estates, Altamount in Fullig Road, Tanyard Wood and Woodland Drive opposite St. Mary's Cemetery were in general well presented with some splendid individual efforts.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Speed Limit Signs were well presented and clean. The Killarney Road was particularly welcoming with Tubrid Well as an interest point. The five traditional lamp standards in the Middle of the Town were noted while the absence of the overhead wires also contributed to a very pleasant feel in this area. A minor point, the small

museum sign on the Killarney Road is well past its sell by date. We welcome your new pavements which are, in spots just still work in progress. Seats and other street furnishings were in general well presented and add a pleasant relaxing air to a visit to your centre.

General Impression:

Mill Street is a most interesting Centre to visit. Busy, justly aware of its own importance and projecting its history, recent and remote, in a suitable and acceptable manner. A number of items might well be described as in transition which, when completed will make this a serious contender for high honours in the Tidy Towns Campaign. Congratulations to all on this very fine presentation.