

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Millstreet** Ref: **480**  
County: **Cork(North)** Mark: **275**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **17/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	42
The Built Environment	50	35
Landscaping	50	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	26
Litter Control	50	33
Waste Minimisation	20	9
Tidiness	30	23
Residential Areas	40	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	32
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>275</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Congratulations to Millstreet Tidy Town and Tourism Association for participating in the Tidy Towns Competition 2008. Thank you for your informative Entry Form. Please ensure that all the material in the submission is of relevance and of interest to the adjudicator. Your map was a most helpful masterpiece. This adjudicator did not avail of the guided tours through the town as described by your submission, preferring to wander, see, experience and hear. And there was much to experience. The present generation of Tidy Town enthusiasts in Millstreet have much to thank previous committees for as the fruit of their labours is sprinkled proudly throughout the town. One senses a frustration with the marks being awarded. Are they so important? Imagine how future generations of committees will thank you for the legacy you are amassing for them. Congratulations also on your 3 year plan. The work planned for last year is a proud testimony to your efforts. This adjudicator was particularly impressed by the before and after photos. It takes foresight to take the photo before the work commences. One is certain that that policy is ongoing and future adjudicators will enjoy the comparison between then and now. It is obvious that your committee gets much co-operation from the local community. The type of finance mentioned did not appear at the end of a rainbow. Continued enthusiasm to you and Millstreet.

### **The Built Environment:**

Millstreet is obviously an old town that has experienced many golden ages. It is now a town in transition and that transition is being well managed. As a town changes lack of occupancy of buildings lead to dereliction, causing problems for the Tidy Towns Committee. But this challenge is being met by you. The town is blessed with fine heritage buildings which are still resplendent though the Bank of Ireland could dispense with the faded Bureau de Change sign. One looks forward to the outcome of the work on the Church. The Credit Union building, the fire station, the schools, the Arena all look well. The County Council Offices need an uplift.

Removing the clutter inside the windows should help. The Garda Station could also do with a coat of paint. The crèche on route to the park was a delight. The adjudicator loved the Railway building and great credit is due to whoever for the colourful welcome or slan to the passenger. While not all shop fronts enhanced the streetscape the fronts at Reen's, the Bush Bar, Christy's, Corkery's and many others are eye catching .

### **Landscaping:**

Millstreet values landscaping. No matter which road one takes into town one is welcomed by the glorious public planting and the private colour provided by local residents. One has to be impressed by the standard of maintenance of the many beds and by the renewal of older landscaped areas. The brightly painted buildings in the town are further enlivened by window boxes and flower tubs. Your plans will further improve the town. The new recreational area on the Clara Road is a gem. The walk is beautiful. The information board represents research and hard work and is most interesting. In fact Millstreet is a great town for information boards describing its proud past and providing relevant information for local and tourist alike. The move to providing pieces of sculpture, as at Clara and Murphys Terrace, is interesting and a themed provision of pieces throughout the town could add a new dimension to prettying your town. The hedge at the Recycling Centre provides an interesting screen on railway road. The landscaping around the Railway Station, the Community School and the Arena are most impressive. The only sign of negligence is around the Fairfield car park back area. Your submission mentions a lot of winter planting. This means that all of your work is not directed at an adjudicator. Great.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

Well done on the mention of a Wildlife Area on the Clara Road amenity area. Well done also on the information board. The riverside walk is most refreshing and one hopes the locals make us of it. Your plans for walks are of major importance and one hopes that you get the full support of landowners. Millstreet is set in a beautiful area and with mountains and forests as a backdrop, a river and a stream the place abounds with wild life. Your efforts to date are praiseworthy but the potential is staggering.

### **Litter Control:**

All of your efforts are paying off in this section. You have provided the litter bins. They are being used. Even in your beautiful Town Park there was little litter about. Teenagers were seen using the bins, great. Nevertheless the adjudicator could not find a bin at Centra to dispose of an apple core! Unfortunately there were instances of dumping in the back areas.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

Congratulations on the Green Flags in the schools. The achievement of Green Flag status means that a waste elimination mentality exists in Millstreet among all generations. The Recycling Centre is a hive of activity with cars coming and going all the time. The presence of a recycling centre means that the waste of Millstreet is being well managed. All of the activity at the centre means that minimisation is still not being achieved. As an exercise over the winter ye might study the booklet 'Race Against Waste'. It would surely stimulate new waste minimisation projects.

### **Tidiness:**

The Millstreet Tidy Towns Committee are entitled to take a bow for the wireless streetscape throughout the town, a worthwhile project and a great result. Also noteworthy is the absence of graffiti. Well done. War seems also to have been waged on cigarette butts and dumped chewing gum. Good work. Early treatment of kerbs meant that there are very few kerbside weeds. Inevitably construction work brings unease and untidiness but is a necessary irritant. Millstreet is a busy town but your traffic management plans seem to be working. Special mention must be made of various directional signs about the town but especially in the town park

### **Residential Areas:**

Residential areas are magnificent, ranging from the old as in Murphy Terrace to the new at Drishane. The estate signs are badges of identity. The houses are well maintained. The fronts are aglow with colour. The landscaping is tasteful and well maintained. The adjudicator could not find a sign for the wonderful estate by the new amenity area on the Clara Road. The residents deserve to be acknowledged with a name sign. The amenity or picnic area at Murphys Terrace is a credit to you. Individual houses display the deep pride of the

residents.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

On arrival into Millstreet one is greeted by a sign declaring your proud twinning partner. All of the routes to town are well maintained thanks to constant verge cutting, cared for shrubberies and beds, and imaginative, colourful fronts of houses. The Grotto on the Clara route is the fruit of the labours of another age and might be forgotten in our new age. There are spots where businesses should be asked to screen their activities and failing this maybe colourful flower barrels would deflect the eye. The adjudicator loved the use of cotoneaster as a groundcover up at Alps, well maintained and effective. Generally the approach road by the Community School was superb but treatment of the fence is needed. This was the only route on which the dreaded buachalán bui was beginning to peep out. The back area around Fairfield is a black spot between dereliction and lack of maintenance of shrubberies. You are targeting the street at Radharc an Mhuilinn, difficult work but it must be done. According to your submission other derelict and disused buildings have disappeared. The red paint on the Mill window boards is a great idea but fails to hide the fact that this building belongs to another age. Minor Street does not have the same bustle as further up the street and the buildings are lacking in the joi de vivre experienced from the square down. Some of the signs in town need to be cared for.

### **General Impression:**

One hopes you keep up the good work and are not overly influenced by the jaundiced eye of the adjudicator for you are making an impression on the life of your town. Your work is impressive. The town needs your involvement. Other generations will respect that work. Perversely the Muileann has been lost from Sráid an Mhuilinn but the town lives on in new circumstances. Imagine what would happen to your town without your courageous and dedicated involvement.