

# Tidy Towns Competition 2022

## Adjudication Report

Centre: <b>Millstreet - Sráid an Mhuilleann</b>	Ref: <b>480</b>
County: <b>Cork(North)</b>	Mark: <b>346</b>
Category: <b>C</b>	Date(s): <b>16/06/2022</b>

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	47	49
Streetscape & Public Places	80	45	47
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	47	48
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	36	37
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	19	21
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	69	70
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	36	37
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	36	37
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>346</b>

### Community – Your Planning and Involvement / An Pobal - Pleanáil agus Rannpháirtíocht:

Fáilte Chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara Super Valu 2021. Táimid buíoch daoibh as ucht na hiontrála a chur chugainn agus guimíd gach rath ar bhúr gcuid oibre amach anseo. Lean leis an dea-obair! Thank you for participating in Ireland's longest-running environmental project and helping to make Ireland a better place. We really appreciate all the great work that you do and the effort you put in, year on year.

Your entry form tells us that Millstreet has been involved in Tidy Towns for over 37 years! It's fantastic that you've been active all this time. We are very grateful for the big effort that went into your entry this year. This included a brief 3-year plan, map, the entry form itself and supporting photographs. You specified in this last which of the Sustainable Development Goals have been met in your projects. All really useful both on the day and in writing this report. However, could we please encourage you to state whether a project is new or being maintained (just using a simple N or M beside each project entry)? It really wasn't clear from the entry form which were new and it was therefore difficult to know where to allocate points. That aside, this is a super piece of work that gives us a clear picture of Millstreet as an active Tidy Towns group.

You appear to be well-integrated into your community and you have good supports from a number of organisations and groups including Cork County Council and IRD Duhallow. Local businesses have also supported your activities. You have your own website but also use traditional means such as Parish Newsletter and local radio. You are familiar with the ongoing Green School activities in Millstreet and have even facilitated a project at the Comprehensive School, very good. The specific project that you have identified for particular effort this year is the Millstreet Biodiversity and Heritage Trail with 8 out of 10 heritage information boards erected thus far. We're delighted to read that Tidy Towns has been so valuable to the community of Millstreet.

### Streetscape & Public Places / Sráid-Dreach & Áiteanna Poiblí:

You have lots to report in this category. As stated above, it unfortunately couldn't be determined how much of this was new or recent work. You are making great strides on your heritage research and interpretation, of that there is no doubt. One of the first things the adjudicator looked at was a new information board outside the church that gave all sorts of great detail on the churches of Millstreet. The interpretation of the stained-glass windows is really first class, well done to all involved. It inspired the adjudicator to go and see these in real life! It is believed that works at the monument were underway on day of visit. You are in the midst of a plan that will see the upgrading of further footpaths. We saw your streetscape mural and it looks great. This is a really good use of space and an ideal location for same. What about another one for the gable opposite? It's very big. The covered areas are a great idea. The adjudicator even availed of the seating here at the church in order to review notes – very handy. The

planting here forms a very good screen. It was noted that the toilets at the town centre car park were open and in good order. The car park itself was neat and tidy. Presentation National School was busy and cheerful on this sunny day. The Carnegie Hall looked well and the adjacent car park was neat and tidy. The Community Childcare facility was bright and busy on day of visit.

There are lots of lovely premises on the streets of Millstreet. Catching the eye on the day were Garden of Eve, Tangney's, the Wallis Arms, the Kall & Dyyne, O'Leary's Butchers, the very inviting Café Aroma and Guys and Dolls. This isn't an exhaustive list so apologies to those not named! Could Manley's premises be given a purpose – even if only a temporary one? The Supervalu and its car park were neat and tidy. The new seating area at McCarthy's Bar was much in use. Wheelchair-friendly seating was noted here, very good. The former creamery looks really well, well done to the owners. Perhaps the amount of grass in the planters at the front could be reduced. The Centra & Maxol premises was neat and tidy.

### **Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:**

There is a lot of activity for you in this category too. Your wooden and steel planters were noted and look great (e.g. either side of the pedestrian crossing at the Post Office). However, we do note from previous adjudicators' reports that these are not recent additions. You have created new raised flowerbeds and upgraded the picnic area. Great stuff. The wildflower and hedgerow work would be better assessed under the following category. The Town Park looked very well on the day. A couple of signs are damaged and in need of replacement now. The planted area with the water feature near your Monaghan junction was admired.

### **Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality / An Dúlra agus an Bhithéagsúlacht i do cheantar:**

You have secured funding for an upgrade of the Millstreet Pollinator Park. This is great news. Thank you for confirming full occupancy of the Swift Tower in 2021. Swifts were on the wing over the town at time of visit. The information board in the Town Park was also noted. Well done for organising the Grow It Yourself projects. That's a really good cohort to be working with and you are to be applauded for this. You'll no doubt be aware that hedgerows should not be cut during the bird nesting season (March-August inclusive). However, a hedgerow near the first name sign on the Killarney Road had been cut back. The lovely signage at your Pollinator Park was admired. Well done on all your work here but we'd agree with the previous adjudicator's comments with regard to lack of greenery.

### **Sustainability – Doing more with less / Inmharthanacht - Mórán ar an mbeagán:**

Thank you for the initiatives that you listed for us here. As last year's adjudicator has previously commented on these, we are to presume that these are maintained projects rather than new. Thank you for the news on the refurbishment of the waste water treatment plant and it is good to read that effluent now exceeds European standards. Do you have a policy on herbicide use? We noted several areas where it has been applied without any real need for it. A rainwater harvester was noted on an old corrugated iron shed.

### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

Thank you for the update on your anti dog litter campaign. The Best Frontage Award is a super idea and this is no doubt a real driver for both businesses and householders. Well done for your participation the Cork County Council Litter-free Roadsides Competition and congratulations on your several first prizes! We wish you many more. It's excellent that you have involved residents on your Direct Provision centre in your work. This is very important. Well done for once again organising the Team Millstreet Clean-up, a great way of keeping pride in an area alive. Only a little litter was seen on adjudication day, so well done everyone. Try to make sure that the Mutt Mitt dispensers are kept stocked. Overall Millstreet was generally tidy on the day.

### **Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:**

Well done for making use of the Dulux Paint Scheme Initiative and for putting to good use in Millstreet. Good luck with the single storey residences this year and the next. A footpath upgrade is also due here. Well done on the Polytunnel Project with the Respond agency. This is an important project. As discussed earlier, the Best Frontage competition is a super initiative and there is nothing like a little bit of healthy competition. It's good to read that all three of the large housing estates have Residents Committees who will be competing for the prizes. Great work by residents on the Mallow Road makes this a lovely introduction to your town. Drishane View was neat and tidy but the fencing at the front is in need of repair. Perhaps more tree-planting could take the place of some of the extensive green area here? Ard an Aonaigh has very nice circular planters. A name sign was seen to be missing here.

### **Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:**

Thank you for all of the information supplied here. Last year's adjudicator seems to have addressed most of these already. We would also seek clarification on the 'wildflower hedgerow.' Perhaps you could fill us in on this in your entry next year. Do please have a look at your name signs on the Mallow Road. Unfortunately, these were in need of cleaning at time of visit. However, lovely planting on this same road was noted on our approach, along with wide footpaths and trees. Well done on the removal of the Palm trees. These were once very fashionable but they are of little benefit to any wild species. The Tubrid Well was visited and the adjudicator was far from being alone here as there were several visitors. The toilets here were open and seen to be very clean. The signs were clean on the Killarney Road and planting was noted here. Planted baskets were noted on the Finnow Road. Watch out for

branches covering the signage at the Rylane Junction (L1123). The picnic area is a work in progress. Good luck with this.

**Concluding Remarks:**

A most pleasant visit to Millstreet was enjoyed in lovely weather. In next year's entry, please do let us know which projects are new etc. You are doing really important work in keeping your town looking so well. We wish you every success in your endeavours.