

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: Milltown - Baile an Mhuilinn	Ref: 202
County: Galway	Mark: 361
Category: B	Date(s): 04/07/2022

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	52	52
Streetscape & Public Places	80	45	47
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	51	53
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	46	47
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	23	24
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	66	68
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	31	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	37	38
TOTAL MARK	550	351	361

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

Fáilte chuig Comórtas Na mBailte Slachtmhara Super Valu don bhliain 2022. Táimid buíoch daoibh as ucht na hiontrála a chur chugainn, agus guimíd gach rath ar bhúr gcuid oibre amach anseo. Adh Mór....

Thank you very much for your application and for including your 5 year Development Plan, map and photographs. For a village of your size you have a very healthy Committee of 15 along with an additional 18 volunteers. You enjoy the support of an impressive range of local businesses, sport clubs and other organisations as well as government bodies and agencies which is testament to the value that the work of the TidyTowns Committee in Milltown. The fact that you have been involved with the TidyTowns movement for over 60 years is an impressive feat, and wonderful to see what a positive impact this has been to your town and community.

It is great as well to see that you are getting the younger population involved as well, with the support of your two national schools as well as Foróige and GAA. The 'Our Welcome Folder' is a wonderful initiative that sounds like a really practical way to enable people, whether refugees or otherwise to get to know your village and community and help them settle in and get integrated, a great idea!

There are lots of other great projects happening in Milltown such as Webinars on Climate and Heritage, Sustainability courses, the Christmas Care Pack initiative, films, as well as a great amount of work on heritage protection and awareness and all sorts of other activities, too many to mention! Well done Milltown!

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

Milltown National School looked very smart with it's blue paint set off by white lettering, and the vibrant mural at Belmont National School was admired with it's cheerful colours. The vintage farm machinery that is displayed at Heritage park looked fantastic with their fresh paintwork and the bright red of some of the machinery made a nice contrast to the lush greens in the park. Likewise the blue and white of the bridge also looked very fresh and clean. The exterior of Mullarkeys was fresh and clean looking with nice landscaping and planting outside, as was Finns, and the paint job on Glynn's Hardware also looked smart.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The Clare River Walk and Heritage Park is a beautiful asset to your village, and a wonderful place to walk, relax and contemplate, and is kept in wonderful condition.

There are vibrant flower displays throughout the village which add some lovely splashes of colour and cheer, and contrast with the stone walls and lush greenery and planting.

I loved some of the educational signs to be seen throughout your village such as the illustration of the different types of butterflies at Brownie's Butterfly Garden, as well as the stone plaques educating the visitor on such things as the

Famine Pot, as well as information on the Heritage Trail, any visitor to Milltown is spoilt for choice when it comes to lovely places to walk or to rest and contemplate nature, or as one of your signs instructs us "Listen to the sound of the river and you will catch a fish" food for thought!

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

Milltown is blessed with an abundance of natural amenities and nature that lends itself to this category and the promotion of biodiversity. Given the importance of the local Angling community it is great to see that Milltown Angling Club (along with 5 others in Galway) are joining forces with IFI and the OPW to work on a stream enhancement project, which will surely benefit all who use this amenity, not just anglers. Other measures to enhance biodiversity in your village included new bat and bird boxes, it would be interesting to see if you have any data from these to see if there is an increase in numbers, this might make for an interesting project, also, pollinator friendly plants were noticed as well as leaving uncut strips along grass verges.

It is wonderful to hear that there is so much engagement with the younger members of your community through the Green school Programme, and also the Milltown Biodiversity project, and that this is instilling them with a sense of pride in their area as well as responsibility. Well done on the School Garden, and it was lovely to hear of the children growing tulips and crocus and giving them as gifts on Mother's day, I also really liked the idea of the 'Great Beanstalk Race'.

You are carrying out many other projects in this category, including tree planting, using furniture made from recycled material, climate change awareness, and many other initiatives, well done on all your work in this category.

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

Sustainability is something that you obviously take very seriously and have put a lot of effort into, and it is especially heartening to see the work that so many local businesses are engaged in. Schemes include the "Conscious Cup" campaign by Ryan's Daybreak, shredded paper for animals, battery recycling points, rain water harvesting, as well as involvement with the Green Waste Prevention Programme, which is helping reduce landfill waste. Other fantastic projects include the Sustainable Gardening Course, the Energy Master Plan, and one that I really like that is simple but effective is repair service directory using local tradespeople to repair appliances rather than automatically replacing with new items. Other activities in this area include the Book Swap, reduction in paper newsletters, encouraging reusable water bottles, and sharing of tips and information.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

On the day that Milltown was visited there was practically no litter to be found, no mean feat, very well done, and keep up the good work, but this does not happen by chance, you put a lot of work into this with daily litter picks in some areas and weekly in others. The Green Waste Prevention Programme is being continued by both residential houses and businesses alike, and you are doing a lot of work in making sure that you are not only cleaning litter but trying to reduce waste in the first instance.

The colourful 'if they poop, you scoop' sign in Heritage Park is a humorous, yet to the point way of encouraging dog owners to make sure they clean up after pets. The Bring Bank area was well presented and tidy and looked well maintained.

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

All of the residential dwellings appeared to be very well maintained, with some very attractive houses such as the house with dark green walls, cream trim, red door and vibrant hanging baskets. One particular Estate that must be mentioned is Millbrook, which was very well presented, and is evident of the pride of place and community spirit that must be found in your village.

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

No matter where you arrive into Milltown, you are greeted with clean, attractive signage and complementary planting or flowers. All approach roads were clean, and well maintained, as were the verges, and it was good to see that an uncut strip had been left for biodiversity. The lovely stone walls add a sense of history and character to Milltown, and it is nice to see planting that is sympathetic to these, and enhance these, well done on your work on maintaining these in such good condition.

Concluding Remarks:

It was an absolute pleasure to visit your lovely village for the first time, well done on all the hard work you are doing, it is certainly working, and best of luck in the competition.