

Tidy Towns Competition 2025

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Milltown - Baile an Mhuilinn** Ref: **378**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **345**
Category: **B** Date(s): **27/06/2025**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2024	Mark Awarded 2025
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	44	45
Streetscape & Public Places	80	48	50
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	49	51
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	29	31
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	20	23
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	63	65
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	36	38
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	40	42
TOTAL MARK	550	329	345

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

Fáilte chuig Comórtas Bhailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2025. Go raibh maith agaibh as bhur iarratas a chur isteach. Maith sibh don obair atá déanta agaibh in bhur cheantar go dtí seo - guímid gach rath oraibh i bhur dtionscadail amach anseo. Ádh mór. Milltown are welcomed to the Supervalu Tidy Towns competition for 2025. Thank you for your application and map. Milltown have a committee of 6 members and a number of volunteers, all too willing to help with various projects that will help to develop and enhance the village. Meetings are held monthly with good support received in the form of advice and funding from the County Council, all other agencies, businesses, sporting organisations and Scoil Bhride. Communication to the wider community is through Parish newsletter, paper, social media and word of mouth. Youth from the local Foroige club are involved in helping with many projects, such as erecting of bird boxes and also with clean-up days. Your main project for this year was the Canal Festival which was a big success and will hopefully become an annual event. The event includes activities for all ages and this year the under 16 Tag Rugby Team were given a huge welcome on their return, after winning the All Ireland Community Games competition in Athlone.

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

The village has a mix of heritage and more modern builds all bringing their own charm to the streetscape. It is good to note that you have an active heritage group, which is evident from the information at various sites in the village. The Inn is bright, colourful and welcoming and was bustling with activity on day visited. David's shop was also busy, it is great to have such an important facility for the community. The Church and grounds were well presented. The Heritage Office and Parish Office were also admired as was the Famine pot adding to the heritage of the area. Scoil Bhride is bright and modern and well presented. It is good to see the old schools' which are part of the village heritage being used. The heritage pub at the canal will hopefully be soon up and running with a new owner. Milltown GAA, Playschool and Kingdom Hall are all important amenities for the village. The community are also fortunate to have many interesting public areas for recreation along the canal, which includes walks and a superb picnic area. Your colourful fish for bottles is a novel idea, while raising funds for charity. The village pump adds to the overall heritage of the village. There is great co-operation with the GAA over the different categories of the competition, from biodiversity to waste, which is commended. The GAA complex is very well presented with a colourful mural adding to the overall brightness of the area.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The village has a mix of perennial planting and annuals, all bringing colour and interest to the streetscape. Planters which include hanging baskets and window boxes were also admired. The village's planting includes a mix of

pollinator friendly plants and bulbs which ensures all year round interest and colour is brought to the area. Trees and native hedging were also noted and admired on the approach roads to the village. Planting of more trees and hedging is always encouraged. The 1916 Commemorative garden takes pride of place, reflecting its careful design and planting in recognition of past heroes. The information signs on wildlife are superb.

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

The natural planting of the village of trees, hedging and superb stone walls are home to many habitats and species. The management and protection of these natural habitats and species is important. It is also important to show appreciation of local species by hosting walks and talks with the school and community. You are doing good work in this area. It is important that the children are involved as they are learning from an early age and the knowledge will live on with them through life. The loop walk of the village looked superb on the day, but must also look splendid during the Autumn, which is commended. The bug hotels are special, well done to the young creator that designed such four-star hotels, with many visitors coming to stay. Planting is well managed with areas of wildflowers and grass left unmown to create more wildflower sections. The residents are also doing their best to incorporate pollinator friendly plants in their landscaping. The canal is a special area of conservation, with advice from Waterways Ireland sought for correct maintenance. You are also fortunate to have Milltown/Maud's Bog accessible to the community for walks. Pollardstown Fen is another special area of conservation and international importance and is located a short distance away. The Fen has a beautiful boardwalk making this special area of vegetation accessible to everyone. Milltown hope to be able to create a link from the village to the Fen via the canal, which will help to make this special area more accessible to the community of Milltown.

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

Most groups are working to make their area more sustainable by their actions. Milltown has plenty of walks with more walking projects in the pipeline, to encourage the community to walk and cycle and also to use public transport where possible. This is also good for health and wellbeing as well as saving on emissions. The use of low energy bulbs and the installation of solar Panels on public buildings and homes with assistance from the government is becoming more popular. Well done to the GAA for setting a good example by recycling club gear, which a splendid project. It also helps parents to save money. The re-turn scheme has proved very successful with less bottles being dumped and as stated in your application, a good fundraiser. The can eating fish at the canal brings interest and colour to the picnic area. Recycling continues with the mini library and the superb bird boxes made from recycled materials. Hopefully Daniel and Jonathan go on to become successful entrepreneurs. Harvesting of rainwater can be done by the wider community, such as you are currently using at public spaces. The litter bins at the GAA Club made by local residents from recycled materials are a good example of sustainability. The list of savings is endless and you are certainly doing good work in this area.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

There is a good plan in place on the control and hopefully eradication of litter, with a number of litter bins placed at strategic locations. The dual purpose bin at the school is commended. The village are also fortunate to have a CE worker to help with the ongoing maintenance of the village. Dog owners are encouraged to clean up after their pet's when out for walks. Volunteers are always willing to help with litter picks. Hopefully you will see a big reduction in the amount of litter being collected at clean-up events, as a result of your ongoing programme to keep the village tidy. Keep up the good work.

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

The housing stock of the village from the oldest to the most modern are all blending together to bring their own charm to the village streetscape. The entrance to the housing areas are welcoming with good signs and a number of interesting sites, from the 1916 Commemorative garden, to the uplifting beauty of individual gardens. Well done to the participation and achievements of Millview in the Kildare Pride of Place awards. This achievement takes a lot of work to reach this standard and it is nice to be awarded for your efforts. The houses along the approach roads and throughout the village have brightly painted facades and colourful floral displays brightening up their surroundings. The residents are commended for the work they do in maintaining their homes to such a high standard as well as helping with projects to enhance and develop the village.

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

The approach roads to Milltown gives a very good first impression to those visiting this charming village. Good entrance signs and colourful landscaping together with neat verges were noted on all approach roads. Trees and hedging were noted and admired. Planting of bulbs in landscaping ensures that these approach roads are bright and colourful all year round. Footpaths are good and parking is also good. The bridges part of the village heritage are well presented making them stand out along the streetscape. The area at the school is also welcoming with the pencil bollards bright and colourful. The pump corner, which is the heart of the village is certainly well presented from the stone work to the landscaping, which is highlighted by the use of flag poles. All blending together for an effective result.

Concluding Remarks:

Milltown was a pleasure to visit and adjudicate. The village is bright and charming with many areas of heritage being preserved. You are doing good work to develop and enhance the village and surroundings with the many projects you are working on. Keep up the good work and you are wished well in the future.

