

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **MALAHIDE**
County : **DUBLIN**
Category : **F**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 10-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	37
The Built Environment	40	33	32
Landscaping	40	34	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	24
Litter Control	40	30	28
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	26	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	28
General Impression	10	9	8
TOTAL MARK	300	242	226

Malahide, County Dublin

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Many thanks for your most comprehensive responses to the application questionnaire especially your inclusion of photographs of the areas nominated for awards. Perhaps in this regard you could indicate these items more clearly on your map of the town in order to facilitate adjudication. Malahide Tidy Towns Committee has done some sterling work over the years. This is no doubt helped by the good support you have garnered from both the local business community and private volunteers.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Your efforts to encourage the replacement of shop fronts with ones of a more sympathetic nature are to be commended. The main streets of the town looked well on adjudication day – Strand Street was very fresh. Meagher's looked extremely fresh however, do try to discourage the practice of window stickers and notices as they can give it a very cluttered appearance. There are one or two projecting plastic signs still evident. Mace had been freshly painted and the new glass canopy to Heeley's Garage was greatly admired. The freshly painted Grand Hotel dominates the vista on Main Street. The AIB was very fresh and the magnificent floral displays of hanging baskets and timber barrels outside the freshly painted Vinny Vanucchi's looked magnificent. The Breakers also sported some well maintained hanging baskets. Perhaps the Garda Station at St. James' Terrace could be painted before next year's competition. Public buildings of the town were as well maintained as ever. The Catholic Church in stone with freshly painted railings and well maintained grounds was admired. The brick Malahide schools building also had beautifully maintained grounds which were quite evident through the perimeter railings.

LANDSCAPING

As previously mentioned, an abundance of floral displays in the form of window boxes and hanging baskets was evident throughout the town to commercial premises. These have been catalogued elsewhere in this report. The grassy area to the seashore on the Howth Road was beautifully maintained as was the landscaped area to the front of the Marina with its chirpy red hot poker at the Strand Street / New Street junction. The landscaping inside the Marina complex itself is maturing well.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Your plans for the erection of wildlife signs on the estuary and

beach roads is to be commended in order to make visitors aware of local habitats. The monitoring of the waters of the estuary and the beach in terms of its health qualities are also to be commended.

LITTER CONTROL

The standard in this category of the competition was generally quite good on adjudication day. However, there were a number of problem areas. A plastic bag full of rubbish was evident on the Dublin Road between the Cricket Club and the Railway Bridge. Some more papers were evident along the Portmarnock / Howth Road and along by the estuary. However, these were minor outbreaks and generally the standard was very good. The adjudicator was pleased to hear that Fingal County Council are emptying the bins more frequently at strategic locations. Your plans for a "Gum-Buster" machine for removing chewing gum on the pavements is also to be commended.

TIDINESS

The town generally appeared quite neat and ordered on adjudication day. However, you should discourage the practice of erecting hoardings. Some weeding is necessary to the curb sides at the Sea Road. And the sign at the entrance to the Railway Station should be repainted before next year's competition. The builders yard opposite the landscaped area at the Marina looks rather unsightly and perhaps the storage of materials could be screened more successfully from public view.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard in this category of the competition was very good as ever. The estates on the Dublin Road such as Oakley Park and Castlevue Park were very well maintained. However, one or two boundary walls along this road appear to be quite grubby although the hedges were greatly admired. The strong colours to the terrace opposite the railway station in blue, burnt orange and terracotta looked magnificent. On the Portmarnock / Howth Road the old Golf Links Estate was beautifully maintained with fine grassy banks. The Sea Park and Biscayne Estate on this road were also well maintained – the latter with its pretty flower tubs and bed of orange marigolds on the grassy bank. The grass had been freshly mown – don't forget to remove the cuttings. The round tower house on the Howth Road looked quite quaint as did an attractive thatched cottage with its garden extending to the roadside on the Sea Road. The attractive houses on the Church Road with their fresh railings and beautiful gardens was greatly admired as was St. Andrew's Grove with its well maintained landscaping. Another attractive landscaped area was admired at the junction of Church Road and Grove Road. St. Margaret's Park also had some attractive floral displays at

its entrance area.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The standard in this category of the competition was also very good. Along the Dublin Road the overhanging trees provide a canopy-like entrance to the town along the side of Malahide Castle Demesne (you refer to this as the Sylvan Way in your application). The road is in good condition and an old milestone along this road was greatly admired. However, a damaged wall on a sharp bend should be repaired. The Howth / Portmarnock Road was also in good condition and the attractive overhanging trees to each side of Church Road make it a most attractive one. In terms of street furniture the children crossing sign by the Rectory should be freshly painted – other signage was in good condition. The use of bi-lingual street names is to be commended.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The busy town of Malahide has been at the forefront of the competition for many years now and this the Millennium year was no exception!

SECOND ADJUDICATION (03/08/00)

It was a pleasure to adjudicate Malahide on a sunny August afternoon. The choppy blue sea complemented well the expansive, indeed miles of well mown grass. The amenity areas near the marina were truly beautiful. The road surfacing in Malahide is generally good. In the town centre the concentration of traffic hinders one's enjoyment somewhat; however the trees created welcome dappled shade. Do please try to discourage an abundance of superfluous advertising on commercial premises, especially the single storey buildings where due to scale it can detract considerably. The residential areas were again for the most part presented to a very high standard - it was pleasing to see an even standard all the way to the back of some estates such as Seapark. There were of course a few blemishes in the standard; for instance litter was evident on Sea Road and weedy kerbs appeared here and there as well as weeds around poles on Strand Street.