

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Mallow**

Ref: **142**

County: **Cork North**

Mark: **196**

Category: **E**

Date: **29/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	31
The Built Environment	40	31	29
Landscaping	40	24	23
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	13
Litter Control	40	21	21
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	25
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	196	187

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for a most comprehensive and informative submission. We commend you on your four year plan and your ability to liaise effectively with the Town Council, so vital to all parts of the town's development. You have a very large area to cover and like all towns of this size unprecedented developments are in evidence from all approaches. The main street was under development on adjudication day and we assume this is part of the urban renewal scheme. We note your comments regarding the Town Park ownership and we wish you well in your planned developments. We urge you to involve all sections of the community in your endeavours and get the full backing of the various relevant agencies: Tidy Towns is everybody's business.

The Built Environment:

Mallow is endowed with some very prestigious buildings, especially on Main Street/Davis Street and offer you opportunity for highlighting splendid architecture of the 19th century. Public buildings were well presented and many have attractive landscaping. The town is also enriched with some distinctive traditional and new shopfronts which include the following: First Active, Murphy's, Davis Street, Molly Flynn's, Sheehan Butchers, Barry's menswear, Barty Sullivan, Profile, Comhar Creidmheasa, AIB, Bank of Ireland and many more in other streets. St. Mary's church is well presented in this prime location, but the information sign in the church yard needs replacement. The church of the Resurrection needs some landscaping: perhaps a scheme for the car park. The Clock House is a gem but is now in need of refurbishment. The parish centre is unique and features some

very attractive iron work as does O'Meara's period house in Main Street.

Landscaping:

The town has a great array of tree planting, much of it from a previous generation and now enhancing the town's environment as mature trees. Indeed, tree planting is one of your strong points and many roadsides are flanked with attractive trees. The area down by Londis is very attractive with some welcoming picnic tables and seating. Approach roads are well presented and the main roundabout is dramatic, and busy too. For excellence we must allude to The Arches, for a magnificent display of shrubs, and the finest mature lime tree in the county. We acknowledge the many flower beds, hanging baskets, window boxes and tubs, all contributing to a colourful display. We urge you to pursue the policy of tree planting in urban areas. We noticed some excellent landscaping at the entrance to the castle park. Could an information plaque be erected fronting the castle?

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You are well positioned to raise your marks in this section and the attractive Blackwater offers potential for the promotion of wildlife. In promoting wildlife, try and cultivate the many species of wildflowers in and around the town.

Litter Control:

On adjudication day we observed litter being picked up on main street, but found several litter black spots: these included two doorways in the, as yet unoccupied, new Davis House, the area near the stream bridge near the Cremins cycle shop, the steps of Westland Casuals and small lots throughout the town. We note your anti litter plans in association with the Town Council. The back area of the large three storey over basement houses in Davis is being used for dumping: these houses are unique with some very attractive features: note the limestone steps at number 8.

Tidiness:

You have some pockets of dereliction that lead to untidiness. Other areas causing untidiness relate to poor boundary walls and uncared for farm gates. Some garage operators are below standard. We noticed some weed growth at Specsavers.

Residential Areas:

You have scored well in this section and many housing estates have some rich landscaping and excellent individual effort is obvious. The large estate of River Valley has some very good tree planting. We liked the new development opposite Dan Joe Fitzgerald, with good use of timber windows and doors: well done. There are many excellent houses well presented on all approach roads and this makes for a good introduction to the town.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The road structure is good throughout and catering for a huge amount of traffic in spite of the by pass. Some signage is in need of cleaning. We would urge you to ensure that all housing, old and new, are well defined with appropriate bilingual signs. The street signs are excellent and very legible. Like many towns, back and side areas are now receiving added attention and areas like Humes Lane and Carmichael Lane are much appreciated. We would support the policy of urban infill: e.g., Humes Lane, as against further ribbon development.

General Impression:

The town was busy and traffic was fast moving on adjudication day. You have potential for much improvement and we urge you to intensive your efforts. The town has much to offer and only needs commitment and cooperation from the various agencies to enter a higher league in the competition. We wish you well for 2005. Oh yes, well done on an excellent town map and thanks to your friendly tourist information advisor.