

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Malahide**

Ref: **133**

County: **Dublin**

Mark: **265**

Category: **F**

Date: **27/07/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	45	44
The Built Environment	40	35	35
Landscaping	40	37	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	26	26
Litter Control	40	35	34
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	27	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	34	32
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	265	259

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for your completed entry form and copy of your Five Year Plan, which was of great assistance on adjudication day. The committee have put great effort into the competition once again this year, despite a drop in the number of committee members. The assistance from local business, community and the Council clearly demonstrates support for your efforts. The strategy of focussing on key projects from the plan is commendable and it is hoped that you will see the results, particularly in the area of increased awareness among residents of your plans and greater support that will result in even more improvements in the overall area. Meanwhile, maintain the work already completed, so that achievements over the last number of years are not lost. Your efforts with the Re-cycling initiatives are to be commended; it would be useful if there were some measure of its success included in next years submission. Continued development of links with Public Bodies and local business will help to ensure that targets set in the five year plan can be met.

The Built Environment:

Malahide is a busy urban village with many historic and attractive buildings. The mix of the old and the new generally works well and there is a strong sense of 'village' atmosphere in the centre of the town. The work carried out on the house opposite St. Sylvester's well has tidied up this part of the street. The completion of the development work on the building at the crossroads is noted and it is hoped that suitable signage will complete this important site in the village. The development works at Casino detract somewhat from this attractive Thatch building on entering the village. St.

Sylvester's Church, the Library, The Tennis Club and the main street were well presented on adjudication day. The Marina area is very attractive and is well maintained.

Landscaping:

There are many fine examples of landscaping in the Malahide area both on approach roads and throughout the village, Yellow Walls Road, in front of the Grand Hotel The Green in front of the Marina was a disappointment as there was some evidence of graffiti and the fine piece of sculpture in the centre while now open (closed off for 2003 adjudication) was dirty and had litter in the water feature. This area would appear to require some wardens and monitoring on a very regular basis. Malahide Demesne continues to be presented to an outstanding standard and the Council are commended on this work. The planting at the embankment on Strand Road should develop nicely. There have been improvements with landscaping along the back estuary on the housing side, but there are still one or two weak points that could be addressed. The planting beside the Tennis Club appeared to require some attention on adjudication day. The good work carried out for Entente Florale has been well maintained e.g. the floral boat displays at Biscayne and the Garda Station.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The development of the walkway along the back estuary, similar to that developed at the back of Seabury, would further enhance this area. Consideration should be given to erecting some Information Panels based on the survey of wildlife habitats, which was completed last year. Some additional seating and perhaps more litterbins would also be welcome.

Litter Control:

For a very busy village, litter Control was very good on the day of adjudication, with the exception of a few black spots. These include the green in front of the Marina where there was litter particularly around the sculpture area and the beach car park. The involvement of schools in generating litter awareness campaigns and clean up days is having positive effects in the village. While there doesn't appear to be many bins in the residential areas litter control was exceptionally good. As there were a few pieces of incidental litter outside some business premises in the village and at the shops in Seabury, further encouragement should be given to business to keep the front of their premises litter free. The Coast road footpath was almost totally litter free however it was disappointing to note the graffiti on the bins in the car park.

Tidiness:

There is a general impression of tidiness in Malahide. The removal of weeds along the base of the Castle wall along the Dublin Road looks good, however it is noticeable that not all of the route has been addressed. Efforts in the area of recycling and composting are commendable and the committee should continue to communicate their benefits to the community through the residents associations, in particular. The Bottle Bank and recycling facility along the coast road was very tidy on adjudication day, though the bins and units could be cleaned down and again disappointing to see some graffiti.

Residential Areas:

There is such a mix of residences in the Malahide area but there is a consistently high standard of presentation across all types. Efforts extend to the pathways, verges, kerbs and green areas many of which have been planted with flower beds, broken trees have been replaced, etc. The involvement of so many residents associations has obviously helped in creating this standard and the committee are to be commended for achieving this sense of pride in the community. This work contributes to the overall tidiness of Malahide considerably.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads to Malahide are all very attractive and well cared for. In general the streetscapes are clean, tidy and there is excellent disabled access with dishing of footpaths and audible crossing signals. Parking seems to be well organised and clearly marked with good disabled parking provided for. The path behind the Tennis Club requires some attention. It was noted that re-surfacing work was taking place on Strand Road on adjudication day. Townyard Lane is now an exceptionally attractive side street. The Back Road is well presented and is a delightful approach to Malahide demesne.

General Impression:

Malahide is a charming town, full of character and variety of facilities. It gives an overall impression of a well cared for town with much thought and effort being applied to the appearance of all areas of the village and surrounding area. It appears bright, clean, and tidy with the exception of the few points made earlier in the report. There are some major developments currently underway which when complete should complement the standard set in other areas of the town. The committee's strategic approach with its five-year plan will further help the area develop into an exceptional urban village.

Second Round Adjudication:

A truly first class effort has again ensured Malahide's enviably high position. With standards rising everywhere, it is good to see this centre so demonstrably keeping up the pace. A few, and relatively minor, concerns were expressed by the first adjudicator, and some of these are reiterated here. The surroundings of the fine sculptural water feature continued to be ill-maintained – litter bins were overflowing on second adjudication day, dead leaves had not been swept from the patio, the water was murky and contained debris. This location is such an obvious urban focal point one would expect better attention. It is assumed that planning permission for the Casino has taken into consideration the sensitivity of this unique site. There are several unprepossessing corners' – such as the area between the railway bridge and the station facade, Bittett's strand at the railway arch, an untidy premises next to the Hair Salon – these are but small blemishes in a town which is patently well kept. Never can such rich cascades of colour have been seen as in the floral decorations in New Street and Main Street – and these may be taken as emblematic of the overall community spirit. Congratulations to the committee, to the residents and business people, and to the associated official bodies and sponsors.