

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Mallow**

Ref: **432**

County: **Cork North**

Mark: **200**

Category: **E**

Date: **29/06/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	34
The Built Environment	40	32	31
Landscaping	40	26	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	13
Litter Control	40	20	21
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	200	196

Overall Developmental Approach:

Your submission proved helpful on adjudication day. We would have welcomed a street map but the local Tourist Office kindly obliged. Thank you for details of work planned and work on hand. For a committee of your size you have a very large area to cover and the town, like many others of its size, is experiencing unprecedented house building and many commercial outlets also. You have a major task of blending the old with the new and the town centre is filled with interesting features and many period buildings requiring demanding maintenance. We acknowledge your outline of work programme but feel you need to formulate a phased plan for a more comprehensive work programme in view of the magnitude of the work required. This should be done in association with the Town Council who have major responsibility for the future shaping of Mallow. We are suggesting a partnership approach with all the various agencies cooperating in fulfilling the aims of the proposed plan. Many of last years proposals have not been acted upon and you have some serious black spots that need attention urgently.

The Built Environment:

Your are fortunate to have so many impressive buildings of great quality, design and style. We suggest you concentrate on West End, Main Street and Davis Street as this represents the core of the town. Public buildings looked well although both banks need cleaning of the lime stone facade, together with the Credit Union. The Town Council building is impressive on this important site. There is black spot in the side street near the White Deer. We liked the many shopfronts, most richly

embellished with a rich display of window boxes and hanging baskets. The buildings mentioned last year looked well again this year. The church and environs looked well although the flower boxes on the boundary wall were empty and should be removed or cared for. Philips Book Shop is sweet. However, you have some poorly attended buildings and some derelict sites on the main street: we expect these will receive attention in the short term. We notice some graffiti on the wall of the Reel Cinema.

Landscaping:

There is no denying the great display of colour from flower beds, tubs, window boxes, and hanging baskets. Indeed this colour is extended to approach roads and in particular Park Road. The town park is extensive and serves the sporting and leisure demands of the town. This is a valuable asset to the town and quite central. The rich display of colour at the roundabouts present a good introduction to the town and for the most part they are well maintained. The Fitzgerald monument needs a clean-up. The GAA hall on Park Road is very poorly presented and its environs need attention. We applaud the many estates who have developed flower beds at the entrances and the great presence of enthusiastic individual effort in almost all areas. Tree planting in the town centre is good and illustrates the value of sustained development. Congratulations to Iarnród Éireann on winning the national Railway Competition: the display of hanging baskets here is most praiseworthy and a welcome site for our many visitors.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You have great opportunity to raise your marks in this section and you should concentrate on the river Blackwater for promoting the whole concept of wildlife. Even the erection of wildlife display boards identifying the local species would generate interest from the public. Many centres are now embarking on allocating special areas for habitats and you have potential for this in Mallow.

Litter Control:

Regrettably this is your low point and we were astonished to witness a most offensive amount of litter in the same doorway of Davis Building as we encountered last year. We are puzzled at this as a litter machine was in action on the footpaths on Main Street during adjudication. Mallow has a serious litter problem extending to the Park, many streets and lanes. Indeed litter was evident in the town park and litter bins were overflowing. That said the quality of litter bins on the principal streets are of high quality. The Bring Bank Centre in the car park beside the church is problematic and the skips were overflowing. It is questionable if skips should be left here. Like many towns you also have a problem with cigarette butts and Hibernian Way lane was found to be very untidy, with some shops needing fresh painting.

Tidiness:

We notice many commercial operators are leaving free standing advertising boards out on the footpath, with little respect for wheel chair access or for the unsighted. Some towns (e.g. Ennis) prohibit such advertising. There is a most interesting stone arch opposite Berzigger behind Davis Street deserving of preservation. You should concentrate on developing unattended open spaces and derelict sites in the town centre in particular.

Residential Areas:

We note the new housing development at Lime Kiln Row: these houses now need colour to soften the impact of so much stone. We would also urge you to erect bilingual name plaques on the various housing estates: even the old terraced houses throughout the town are not identified. We liked the Geraldine terraced houses with their traditional features. Chapel Court needs painting and lacks colour. We would urge new housing estates to finish well and ask developers to landscape before leaving the site.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

In general approach roads are well presented and the Killarney approach has some attractive mature trees. We also liked the presentation of the Racecourse, so well done. We notice the town is developing many of its side and back areas. This is now popular in developing towns and offers opportunities to refurbish many of the traditional features of the town. These should be named as they are important cultural links with the past. Such developments also enable people to shop and socialise within the town centre. We notice the infrastructure development is ongoing at the lower end of the town and we learn that this is related to flood control. We hope the traffic situation will improve as it is quite an impediment on the quality of the environment and long term you should concentrate on removing cars from the main streets. This is achievable by developing car parks off street.

General Impression:

Mallow has potential for raising its marks but you need to tackle the litter problem. We suggest you intensify your efforts and get the public on your side. We acknowledge the great work on flower displays and planting and painting, but your litter control is keeping your back. We again urge you to formulate a comprehensive phased plan that will chart the way forward for a better environment.