

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Malin**

Ref: **216**

County: **Donegal**

Mark: **270**

Category: **B**

Date: **12/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	43	41
The Built Environment	40	36	35
Landscaping	40	36	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	25
Litter Control	40	38	39
Tidiness	20	18	17
Residential Areas	30	28	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	37	36
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	270	265

Overall Developmental Approach:

The high rating achieved by Malin in last years National Tidy Towns Competition is of no surprise to the adjudicator. Malin was looking exceptional on adjudication day and it is obvious that the people of Malin have pride in the village and a determination to make further progress in their efforts to obtain National recognition.

The adjudicator is greatly impressed with the presentation of Malin and your five year development plan, which has kept your objectives realistic and has taken into consideration observations contained in last years report.

Thank you very much for your entry from, support documentation and map. The improvements made to the map were much appreciated.

The Built Environment:

Most private and commercial properties looked very well on adjudication day. The Diamond in the centre of the village was in pristine condition. The Church of Ireland is nicely maintained and the old style telephone box adjacent is a nice reminder of how things where. It was lovely to see a group of tourist taking photos of this.

The thatched cottage on the Glengad Road with the ploughs on display is nicely maintained and it is nice to see parts of rural Ireland being cared for and carried on by future generations. The Beauty

treatment rooms are nicely maintained and the Hotel and adjacent houses had a wonderful display of potted trees, window boxes and hanging baskets.

The white washed walls and kerb stones in the village were in excellent condition and it is good to note from your five year plan the proposal for replacement of these with possibly granite - this should make the long term maintenance a little easier.

St. Patrick's Hall painting has been completed and helps the overall Culdaff approach.

A well presented and attractive environment is a great asset to the community and will attract many visitors.

Landscaping:

The Diamond area is beautifully presented and the committee must be commended on the replacement of flowering cherry trees with indigenous trees such as lime and chestnut trees - this is planting for future generations. The car park adjacent to St. Patrick's Hall is nicely landscaped and the picnic furniture is nicely displayed.

The river walk area is tastefully presented and landscaped. The main approaches were well cared for and the neat and trimmed grass verges also looked well. Scoil Treasa Naofa had a nice display of hanging baskets and shrubs.

Malin marks highly under this heading and deservedly so.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

As a Tidy Towns Committee you have an important role to play in protecting, enhancing and increasing the wildlife value of your community. The unique marine heritage of Malin should provide you additional opportunities under this heading.

The bird houses were noted at Scoil Treasa Naofa and this would be an ideal location for an information board also, the adjudicator noted that work has begun in this area in terms of identification of bird life in the area.

This is an area where marks could be improved on and it is good to know that the five year plan has identified river walks and information boards as future projects.

Litter Control:

Malin was litter free on adjudication day. Your strategy of using An Taisce spring clean and regular daily clean ups is contributing positively to a successful anti litter campaign. The screening of the recycling bins has been noted and is a job well done.

Tidiness:

In general Malin is a tidy village. Well presented business and private buildings, neatly trimmed verges on approach roads, suitable planting and the Diamond all contribute to a neat and tidy presentation. Of minor concern to the adjudicator is litter bins, the litter bin outside the grocery shop, on the same row as the Butchers was ready for emptying as was the bin adjacent to the picnic area in the area of the Parochial Hall.

It was however noted that the litter bins had been painted in the Diamond and that some landscaping had taken place to the side of the Isuzu Garage.

Residential Areas:

Kathleen Connolly Residential area is nicely maintained and the use of Topiary and other year round shrubs is to be commended, although additional hanging baskets and tubs would add an array of color. The committee should ensure that the new developments at Carrick Ard and Radharc na Trá

Bréige landscaping will be in keeping with planning requirements when finished. The new residential building beside the Beauty Rooms although not yet completed was neat and tidy. The houses adjacent to the river walk shows great community spirit with nearly every house having a floral display.

Private houses were in the main attractively presented on the major approaches to the village - with in many cases planted gardens with flower beds, maturing trees and well manicured lawns.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

All roads presented well, verges neatly trimmed and suitable planting with colorful floral arrangements highlighted a welcoming environment. The white washed walls are maintained to an excellent standard and the committee should ensure this constant maintenance is upheld as to such time as replacement can take place. The picnic area on the Carndonagh road is great amenity for both tourists and locals although the weeds had been burned off they had not been removed which is not a pretty sight.

The resurfacing of the 10 arch ancient bridge is most welcoming on the approach from Carndonagh.

General Impression:

The committee has made tremendous progress and your five year plan has given you a clear focus and is a mechanism to expedite progress and put Malin into consideration for another National Award.

In brief continue working the way you are - strengthen your relationship with the local authority and give attention to detail.

Another good performance this year is rewarded - good luck.

Second Round Adjudication:

Malin looked wonderful for second adjudication also which is what we have come to expect given the towns track record in recent years. The committee is to be congratulated on Malins excellent development plan and particularly for proposed developments in relation to the wild life of the bay.

The presentation of Scoil Naofa Treasa and grounds is exceptional and indeed most premises are presented to a high standard; the curtilage area located across from Ursulas Beauty Salon is an important lapse in the generally high standard which pertains throughout the village; a few boundary walls could be improved also.

No doubt the standard of finish to the proposed residential estate for the site opposite the school will complement the existing built environment.

The preparation of a plan for the car-park beside the hall has been noted and we anticipate a successful outcome; gates located across from the car-park are in need of rehabilitation.

Well done on another fine presentation.