

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Malahide**

Ref: **570**

County: **Dublin**

Mark: **257**

Category: **F**

Date: **12/08/2005**

|                                | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2005 | Mark Awarded 2004 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50           | 45                | 45                |
| The Built Environment          | 40           | 35                | 35                |
| Landscaping                    | 40           | 35                | 37                |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30           | 26                | 26                |
| Litter Control                 | 40           | 29                | 35                |
| Tidiness                       | 20           | 17                | 17                |
| Residential Areas              | 30           | 27                | 27                |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas  | 40           | 34                | 34                |
| General Impression             | 10           | 9                 | 9                 |
| <b>TOTAL MARK</b>              | <b>300</b>   | <b>257</b>        | <b>265</b>        |

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Malahide is welcome to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission which included your five year plan. Malahide is a beautiful town enjoying a wonderful setting and an excellent built environment, it has a rich cultural, social and wildlife heritage. It is an excellent example of an urban village which has retained its character whilst successfully making its transition into the twenty first century. The Tidy Towns Committee are most effective in promoting what is best about Malahide and in facing the challenges for the future. We wish the new members of the committee well in the year to come and hope they enjoy the experience. The input from the business community as well as Fingal County Council is most encouraging.

### The Built Environment:

Congratulations on the new ornamental stone plaque at the green space to the roadside of the Grand Hotel. The village centre enjoys a plethora of most attractive shopfronts with good signage and floral displays. The Kevin Flanagan Auctioneers on Strand Street is an important focal point in two streetscapes and enjoys an excellence in presentation. It is important to pay attention to small details such as awnings, canopies, gates etc. The awning on the Malahide Hair Salon and Malahide Nail Bar were a bit jaded and should be upgraded; the boundary wall of the Malahide Nail Bar was in need of attention; the gates beside the San Souchi premises are also in need of attention. Public buildings are well presented. Plans for the redevelopment of the railway station and the addition of restaurant and other social facilities have been noted; we look forward to redevelopment here. Your

plan to encourage the use of bilingual signage and shopfronts is commendable as are your intentions to raise the profile and appearance of older and in particular, public buildings.

### **Landscaping:**

The hard surfaced landscaped area at the junction with Railway Avenue was particularly admired and enjoys an excellent standard of presentation. Container plants, particularly hanging baskets throughout the town add colour and seasonal interest and were admired. Perhaps flower displays and window boxes could be featured for the terrace of grey buildings on Old Street to add some colour here. The green which features the Ammonite sculpture was not presented well for adjudication; reference will be made below to litter control in this area. Under this heading many sections of bare earth were noted and some of the plants themselves were not healthy. The same point can be made in respect of the area inside the gate of the carpark located beside the railway bridge. Weed growth was noted at the base of trees opposite the Grand Hotel. Your intention to rehabilitate the green and, in particular, shrubs here for this year had not been completed by the time of adjudication. Other details of your landscaping plan for the current year have been noted together with five year projects. We wish you well in implementation and in particular the appropriate development of the two new parks for the coast road near Robs Wall.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The beach and the foreshore area of the estuary enjoy an excellent standard of maintenance and both looked exceptionally well at the time of adjudication. Your natural wildflower site on the railway embankment at Bissetts Strand is a visual treat. The butterfly garden is a good idea and its further development is anticipated. The installation of nest boxes around Malahide should encourage more wild birds and we would be interested to hear of any new species / visitors as a result of this initiative. We wish you well with your on-going discussions with both Iarnród Eireann and Fingal County Council for the continued development of a pedestrian walkway along the railway viaduct between Malahide and Donabate. We would be interested to hear of the progress you are making of your work with Fingal County council on dune restoration at the beach.

### **Litter Control:**

Litter control unfortunately was not good at the time of adjudication and there has been a substantial loss of marks under this heading; hopefully this problem will be addressed by next year's competition and marks can be regained. The most problematic area was the green at the end of New Street. It was heavily littered and most of the litter was made up of pizza cardboard boxes from Godfather Pizza together with soft drink cans. This was discarded as the bins on the green were overflowing and there was no space left in them to deposit litter; more frequent emptying of these bins is urgent. A similar problem was noted at the steps of the old Carnegie Library where lunchtime litter had been left behind. ATM docket were quite prevalent around the Ulster Bank ATM machine on the Main Street; on inspection, the receptacle here for these dockets was full, hence the litter. Litter control was also weak at the Hilltop shop at the top of Church Road.

### **Tidiness:**

Well done on the presentation of the recycling point in the beach carpark, this has been considered for the new Repak Bring Bank Award. The yards of Iarnród Eireann continue to be untidy; no doubt this problem will be addressed with the redevelopment of the station here; they are, however, visible from the main street. The site beside the Malahide Hair Salon with its dreadful wire mesh gates continues to be an eyesore. The efforts of the Tidy Towns Committee have been noted in respect of this site and a development here is anticipated. A lot of weed growth was noted on Hanlons Lane; well done on the effectiveness of your other initiatives under this heading. The home composting initiative and your continued involvement in the Race Against Waste for the business community have been noted.

## **Residential Areas:**

Marks earned under this heading are high and few problems remain. Most dwellings have achieved a standard of excellence in the presentation of both the premises and their curtilage area; public green areas and verges in residential developments are being maintained to a high standard. New developments, both of private houses and of apartments, are sitting comfortably with the existing built environment. Your community involvement initiative is commendable and particularly your project to welcome new residents into the life of the community.

## **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Entrances to Malahide are breathtaking in their beauty ranging from the mature, tree lined entrance from the Dublin approach to the panoramic seascapes of the Portmarnock approach. The travelling public is not disappointed on arrival in the town centre with its attractive shopfronts and its wirescape free status along the main streets. Both approach roads are being maintained to an excellent standard. Street furniture in general looked good and the lampstandards were particularly admired, especially the view down Townyard Street from the Main Street. We wish you well in your commitment to raising the standards of roads and footpaths in the area of the green and St. James' Terrace. It is good to note that you intend to designate priority areas throughout the town over the next five years.

## **General Impression:**

The overall impression of Malahide is one of a town which enjoys an excellent built environment and wonderful setting with high amenity status. The committee are to be commended for their many initiatives in making Malahide a cleaner, greener and overall more attractive destination and in building a greater sense of community. We look forward to seeing this year's litter problem resolved for next year's competition.

## **Second Round Adjudication:**

The shore areas of Malahide looked superbly well on the day of 2nd round adjudication. The many window boxes and hanging baskets looked fresh and healthy and gave a breathtaking sense of colour and vibrancy to the central area. Unfortunately the litter problem in The Green identified at 1st round adjudication persisted on the day of 2nd round adjudication. The adjudicator has not seen such poor litter control anywhere else in Ireland for many years. Again pizza packets, bottles and cans are the main problems. As noted by the 1st round adjudicator litter bins were over-flowing. This situation was noted after 2.00 pm in the day when there was ample opportunity for a clean up following the previous night. The lack of litter control is all the more distressing when it comes from a village that has done so well in the Tidy Towns competition for a number of years.

Many of the planted areas around The Green are in poor condition and look quite 'tired'. Substantial work is required here. However the adjudicator would like to congratulate the Tidy Towns Committee for the great good work that they have done over many years.