

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Mallow** Ref: **656**
County: **Cork (North)** Mark: **210**
Category: **E** Date(s): **22/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	34
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	19
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	210

Overall Development Approach:

Many thanks for your submission but we would suggest that for next year's entry, that you confine your submission to your 5-year plan, application form, and your map, outlining clearly the location of areas of interest. You could also include photographs of any projects you wish to be considered for the various awards of the competition. 15 on the committee seems rather small given the size of the town. Perhaps you need to recruit more members? It might also be worthwhile to organise more meetings throughout the year. Your work with Joyce's Garden Centre, Cork County Council, the Town Council, Rapid, and the Chamber of Commerce must all help in your work, as must having the Deputy Principal of the Patrician Academy on your team!

The Built Environment:

The main streets of the town looked well, although the condition deteriorated in the vicinity of Bridge Street and the Clock Tower area. This seemed to be the case last year also. The new Market Square development looked well in terms of hard landscaping using limestone kerbing and steel bollards. Lidl looked fine, as did the Tesco Shopping Centre on the outskirts of the town. The White Deer pub and restaurant looked quite cheerful. There are some unusual and attractive buildings in the town such as the Town Council offices with its Neo Celtic limestone carving around door and the Hibernian Hotel in peach with navy trims. The Clock Tower is a magnificent neo Tudor building that should be restored to its former glory. There are a number of abandoned shops in this vicinity, which look unfortunate. The Fire Station looked well and was attractively landscaped, as indeed was the railway station. The Racecourse looked fine.

Landscaping:

The Spa Park area and Spa House look most impressive and were beautifully maintained on the day. We appreciate your problems in relation to the town park lease and hopefully can be developed at a date sometime soon. An attractive seating area at a stone wall near the park was admired, as was the attractive

hard landscaping at Market Square and O'Brien Street. We note that flood relief is still continuing at the Spa Park. The abundance of hanging baskets throughout the town looked well. The roundabouts are a credit to all concerned, particularly that on Killarney road with its magnificent limestone horsemen. However, the brickwork in this area was damaged-presumably by a traffic accident. A grassy bank with roses near the Town Park was greatly admired. The picnic areas were well maintained on the Killarney road, particularly the wooded green space with rustic tables.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You are very fortunate in this regard with your wildlife Riverside walk and proximity to much green space and waterways. Have you considered commissioning a wildlife management plan? Some towns have and find this of benefit to them in their work.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day could have been much better. It did not seem to have improved since last year. There was a lot scattered along the streets, also at the public car park at Muddy Hill and along approach roads from Cork, Killarney and Fermoy. We note that the Litter Warden visits the schools. The town park area was also littered. This is an area that is seriously going to have to be tackled in the immediate future!

Waste Minimisation:

You should clearly mark on your map the position of bring banks, as they are quite difficult to locate. Dumping was in evidence at the skips at the car park on Muddy Lane. New bring banks were in evidence in this location. The Convent survey should be an interesting one. The adjudicator was delighted to hear that the schools have achieved Green Flag status.

Tidiness:

Dumping of spoil at the Muddy Hill car park looked unfortunate and a rusty shed here also created a bad impression. There was a rough area by the car park of the Energy Advice Office. A low stone wall at the Spa Park was damaged to the roadside. We were glad to hear that the problem of the derelict property at the White Deer had been resolved. The warning barrier at the Limerick road roundabout needed painting.

Residential Areas:

Some attractive houses were noted at the Spa Walk, as were some with bay windows adjacent to Dairygold at the West End. There is an abundance of new housing and apartment developments throughout. Do ensure that they are finished to the highest standards in terms of landscaping and materials, in order to complement the town. Your Tidy Estates Competition sounds like a good idea. An attractive garden by the entrance to the General Hospital was greatly admired.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The standard in this category was generally quite good. In the centre of town some attractive original limestone gutters and paving were greatly admired. The new paved areas at Market Place and O'Brien Street were also admired - that off Davis Street at the Town Hall was being well enjoyed on the day. The laneways around the town are most important and will need to be developed in time. There are many similar sized towns in country, which have done this successfully. That at Mallow Printing looked most attractive. Good luck with your Traffic Management Plan. Some street signage in centre of the town looked quite neglected.

General Impression:

Mallow is an interesting town with many fine items of architectural and historical significance. There is room for improvement.