

# Tidy Towns Competition 2006

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Malin** Ref: **706**  
County: **Donegal** Mark: **283**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **16/06/2006**  
**08/08/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	44
The Built Environment	50	36
Landscaping	50	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	26
Litter Control	50	38
Waste Minimisation	20	9
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	37
General Impression	10	9
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>283</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Not having visited Malin for three or four years, it is good to find that the committee has not been resting on its laurels. All the proposals in the five year Development Strategy are interesting, most of them probably achievable; there are several imaginative ideas, of which the one for a footbridge at Millbrook is outstanding, on a linking walk something like the Sli na Slainte elsewhere. This adjudicator feels that flowerbeds in the green should be kept to a minimum. No provision is given in the document for timescale (why, for example, is it a 5 year plan and not a 4 or 6?). Other committees have found that by setting out projects for starting/completion on a year by year basis and naming the years, creates much enthusiasm among voluntary helpers to get work completed on this or that project with a definite year as the goal.

### The Built Environment:

The whitewashing never fails to impress. It is known to be expensive and time-consuming, but it makes an enormous impact and in its extent is unique at present to Malin. The recently completed GAA premises is impressive. The Millbrook Diner, new to this adjudicator, is neatly presented. The church frontage had been much improved since this adjudicator's last visit. All of the shops were looking very well on the date of the visit but none has that extra quality which would make it eligible for an award. A great deal of energy has been spent on maintenance of the existing townscape; with standards rising everywhere this challenge has been met.

### Landscaping:

The little gardens on the south side of the bridge looked a bit dishevelled on the date in question. The planting at the picnic area on the sea road to Malin Head has matured very nicely: this is now a most attractive spot and the hedges and verges along this stretch are sensitively looked after. The green was a trim as ever, and the planting within the church grounds made that building all the more picturesque. The GAA grounds were

well maintained.

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

The copper-beech at the church was resplendent at the time of the visit. It was good to see young trees replacing those which had not done so well on the green and elsewhere. The walk behind Millbrook estate, where an attempt has been made to encourage climbing plants on the wall, disclosed some neat gardens and others that could only be described as yards or stores. It is understood that in your plans a river walk will be created from here; the river itself was nicely landscaped, the little weirs causing reaches of quiet water suitable for fish breeding. It is good to read that the school children maintain nesting-boxes and that they are kept in touch with their splendid natural environment.

### **Litter Control:**

It is good to read that flyposting has been banned in Malin! The village was comparatively litter-free, which says a great deal for the work of the voluntary helpers who undertake the clean-up and regular patrols.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

This is a slightly above average mark awarded in the first year of this category - a category that will assume a greater importance as time goes on. It is good that the recycling area is fenced off and kept clean. Your future plans under this heading have been favourably noted.

### **Tidiness:**

With the exception of the area immediately inside the gate of the GAA car park, which was weedy on the date of the visit, the village has maintained its customary neatness. This is a remarkably high mark to retain: congratulations.

### **Residential Areas:**

The houses in the Diamond are kept for a fairly uniform degree of neatness, those which are vacant being decently disguised. It is, of course, the area which gives Malin its truly unique flavour. The estate at Millbrook (is that the right name for the houses beyond the river?) is exceptionally well looked after and it was good to see a new white terrace adjacent. The houses at the Kathleen and Michael Connolly Foundation were new to this adjudicator, who was impressed by their lay-out and use of colour, inwardly debating if trees should be recommended for the long driveway opposite - but no: this would screen the splendid view.

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

Road surfaces and markings were reasonably good, except at the entrance to Millbrook. It was good to see that the car park at the Community Hall was in better shape than heretofore, that there was a newlaid footpath, and that this heretofore rather neglected neighbourhood was receiving better attention.

### **General Impression:**

With - as mentioned earlier - standards rising everywhere, it is good to find Malin not only keeping pace but also with new initiatives for the future. The tremendous effort involved by the community annually is applauded without reservation.

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

The 2nd Round Adjudicator was on his first visit to the village of Malin, but had of course read of your excellent Tidy Towns performance over many years. On the day of the 2nd Round Adjudication the village was looking superbly well and the central triangular green areas were superbly presented. The high standard of presentation of the grass here has not been seen elsewhere by the adjudicator for many years. The fine mature trees here and the many window boxes and hanging baskets add greatly to the overall presentation and attractive feeling about the village of Malin. New development in Malin seems to have been designed well to fit with the existing village structure and this attention to detail was admired. On the road to Malin Head some cut grass had not been removed and at the school entrance area some weed growth was noted. Just beyond the school a wall needs to be repaired and plastered. Normally issues such as these would not stand out but they do catch the eye when the overall presentation of Malin is so good. Some litter was noted at the Hall and at the Bring Centre bags of rubbish were piled up beside the bins. The screening here was quite good. At the bridge the whitewash had begun turn grey and re-white washing will be needed shortly. There is a wonderful sense of community in Malin and you are congratulated on your continued presentation of your village to such a high standard.