

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Mallow** Ref: **656**
County: **Cork(North)** Mark: **219**
Category: **E** Date(s): **06/08/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	37
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	16
Litter Control	50	19
Waste Minimisation	20	9
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	219

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Mallow to the 2008 TidyTowns Competition. Thank you for the detailed entry form together with comprehensive supporting documentation. From your documentation it is very obvious that you have an extremely dedicated Committee of about 30 people who meet on a very regular basis. The Mallow Special Local Area Plan is an extremely interesting document that demonstrates vision for the future of Mallow. The TidyTowns Committee appears to have very good productive relationships with local agencies and organisations and this is so important for future TidyTowns progress. You also have developed excellent media links to the Mallow community and it is an excellent idea to have two teachers on your committee to provide the essential youth links to your TidyTowns work programme. The detailed TidyTowns Action Plan for the period 2007 – 2010 gives a clear picture of your future vision for Mallow in TidyTowns terms. This document should now be revised to cover the period 2009 to 2012.

The Built Environment:

Your adjudicator has known Mallow for many years and had visited on many occasions. However this was the first time that the adjudicator had the opportunity to examine the built environment in detail. The range of new developments from the Market Square Shopping Centre, the Spa area and the Business Park off the Cork Road were just some of the impressive aspects of the built environment that were visited and appreciated. In regard to derelict properties in Mallow it was encouraging to read that the Town Council is taking a pro-active focused approach to these difficulties. Congratulations to Irish Rail on the success of the Railway Station in April 2008 when it was named Best Station in the Country in its category. On adjudication day the colourful window boxes and hanging baskets were much admired. Along Friar Street the new Heritage Plaques are excellently produced and add real additional interest to my visit to Mallow. Along the Main Street a number of well presented buildings caught the eye that included The Hibernian Hotel and AIB. The landscaping at these two premises was really excellent. Other buildings make excellent use of colour for their main elevations while

Market Square has become an attractive area that was admired. Along Bridge Street some properties needed attention with grass and weed growth at the base of buildings. Some of the buildings along here also needed to be painted and not as a result of the other building work in progress along here. The now closed Mallow Park Hotel seemed to be suffering from some minor vandalism with a few broken windows noted here and gable walls needed to be painted. At St. Mary's Church the gates and railings needed to be painted and weed growth was noted in the narrow timber plant boxes attached to these railings.

Landscaping:

The spring bulbs on the N72 / N20 roads looked very colourful and the many hanging baskets and windows along Main Street and Park Road were very attractively presented. At the main road bridge the hanging baskets added a nice splash of colour. The proposed improvements to river views are commended. The Spa Park was indeed in a sorry state with the work in progress here for the flood relief programme but full reinstatement will presumably follow in due course. Despite the work under way in the Town Park the upper end of this amenity area was attractively presented and what a great amenity for the people of Mallow this is. On the N20 the planting at the town sign was admired as was the colourful planting in the triangle at the junction to the Industrial Estate. On the Killarney approach road the very attractive mature landscaped area with fine trees on the left is a great approach road feature. The planting at the two main roundabouts was excellently presented.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The provision of the owl boxes by the pupils of St. Patrick's National School is commended and the development of the new walks and trails are a significant project. What has been the result of your consultation with OPW in regard to wildlife issues in Mallow? Hopefully the issue of the Town Park lease will be resolved to the satisfaction of all parties. The boardwalk project sounds really interesting and we look forward to progress on this for 2009.

Litter Control:

You appear to be working closely with the Litter Warden and this is an important partnership and we look forward to having details of the planned Litter Awareness campaigns mentioned in your entry documentation. Unfortunately on adjudication day litter control was quite poor in some areas of Mallow. Litter was noted in the corner beside the Post Box at the entrance to Chestnut Grove off St. Joseph's Road. Similar problems were present in the small Centra car park off the Main Street and in the narrow laneway off the Main Street leading to this car park. Very bad litter was present at the Bring Centre outside the Centra car park despite the warning notices seen at the Bring Centre. The official Bring Centre signage was not present. Along the N72 quite a lot of litter was present. Litter was also noted on the approach road to the Station and on the N20 Limerick approach. At the entrance to River Valley litter was also evident and much litter was seen on the N72 Fermoy approach road.

Waste Minimisation:

The new Civic Amenity site is a significant project for the town. Congratulation to the Patrician Academy Secondary School on their Green Flag success and it was encouraging to read that so many schools in Mallow are involved in the Green Flag programme. The adjudicator wishes the Raheen National School Parents Association well in their own Green Flag project.

Tidiness:

During the adjudication visit extensive work was under way in Mallow in regard to the flood relief programme and this was causing a certain degree of expected untidiness. Your marks under this adjudication have not been adversely affected by this work. The cigarette butts problem at the Church has been noted and indeed this problem was noted elsewhere in the town also. The painting of roadside railings has added some additional colour to approach roads. The Bridewell Lane / Spa Square area needed a little tidying and some damaged stone bollards were noted at the Castle entrance. The storage of retail goods on the pavement was noted in a few locations in the town and this practice should be discouraged. Along Main Street some gable walls needed to be painted and some Moss and weed growth was also present. The under grounding of wirescape along Main Street might be considered as a medium to long term project as it would make such a difference to Mallow. At the Railway Bridge on both sides some quite large advertising signage detracted from this approach to the town. Do these signs have Planning Permission or a Licence? On the N20 two bare poles were noted at the end of the timber fencing and along Main Street some damaged tree guards needed to be replaced.

Residential Areas:

Quite a number of the estates in Mallow were visited and the bilingual estate signage is commended. The really excellent tree planting in Chestnut Grove and Castle Park Avenue and other roads in this area was much admired. This was complimented by some fine grass areas. Some attractively painted houses at Harold

Place caught the adjudicator's attention though some litter was present here. The large grass area at Rockbrook Lawn was well presented. Along the Mallow North Road some attractive older terraced houses caught the eye while at Funshion the large grass area and trees are fine features of this estate. Good landscaping at the entrance to Kinley Park provided an attractive introduction to this estate together with the very large grass area though some litter was present. The Estates Competition is an excellent way of getting further community involvement in your TidyTowns programme.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Sli na Slainte brochure is an attractive and useful publication. Improvements at Hibernian Way were examined and the stone walls on the Ballymagooley road were admired. Good colour use was noted along Fair Street. Some of the properties along Ballydaheen road needed to be painted. Along the N20 approach road some damaged timber fencing needed attention while on the N20 Limerick road some verges needed a cut. Good verges and grass areas are an attractive feature of the Mallow North road. In overall terms approach roads were quite well presented.

General Impression:

It was a pleasure for your adjudicator to spend some time in Mallow and to examine the town in some detail. The adjudicator would like to wish you well with your projects for 2009.