

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Malahide** Ref: **159**
County: **Dublin(Fingal)** Mark: **284**
Category: **G** Date(s): **07/08/2008**
25/08/2007

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	45
The Built Environment	50	39
Landscaping	50	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	29
Litter Control	50	29
Waste Minimisation	20	11
Tidiness	30	19
Residential Areas	40	32
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	35
General Impression	10	9
TOTAL MARK	400	284

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to the 2008 TidyTowns competition. Thank you for your submission and providing a map which was very useful on the day of adjudication. Unfortunately there was no annual plan included with your entry form this year. Do you have one? I am sure that Malahide must have developed such a plan some years ago but perhaps it needs to be updated. You are currently on a very high mark under this category and to sustain this level you will really need a plan for future assessments. Nonetheless we did note your ongoing good relationship with the local authority, local businesses and schools and your co-ordinated effort to maintain Malahide's very high standards.

The Built Environment:

There is a lovely village aspect to the centre of town which is brought together through a combination of attractive street lights, well kept shops and colourful floral displays - and none of the shops with modern fronts clash with this overall impression. The Grand Hotel is a landmark building and was very well presented on the day of adjudication. St Andrews Church was very tidy. The new build onto the church blends really well with the old church stone. It was good to see the public bench seating available at the front of the church grounds. St Sylvester's National School needed some weeding and to have the flower beds tidied up. This is a lovely old brick building and it has a beautiful big oak tree on the grounds. There was no name plaque visible on the St Oliver Plunket National School but the building was bright and fresh with its crisp white paint with red trimmings. The garden is a great addition. The school on the Cove Road near the yacht club was neat, tidy and well landscaped. However, again no name sign for the school could be located. St Andrews Malahide Parish Centre School was reasonably tidy but would look more refreshed if painted. The Garda Station looked well and was in keeping with other Georgian Terrace buildings lining the street. The new restaurant with thatch will be a great addition once developed. The Malahide Sea Scout Club Rooms needed painting and the fence out front needed to be repaired as it was falling down. The new Malahide Community School, although

of modern design, blends appropriately into its surroundings with use of natural colours and the green grass expanses with good planting. The main grounds were also very tidy as was the car park. The new information maps throughout the town are an excellent addition.

Landscaping:

Landscaping around the town was colourful and well planted as highlighted above. The use of stone in landscaping design worked well with the stone walls in the area. It was good to see that landscaping was not overdone in areas of natural beauty. The Talbot Botanic Gardens are a wonderful resource. We were very interested to hear about your planned restoration of the walled garden and this would be a wonderful program to involve the local schools. We wonder whether Malahide has considered developing an overall landscaping scheme for the town identifying areas that may need attention. This could be part of any new overall plan.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Malahide features wonderful natural amenities and several areas for wildlife to flourish. Signage providing information on the area surrounding the wildlife park area would be very beneficial. The Marine walkway was well presented and it would be good to include information here about the coast and the fauna that can be located in the area. We would be very interested in learning more about how schools are involved in preserving the wildlife and natural resources in the area.

Litter Control:

The main shopping area of Malahide was practically litter free and most of the surrounding streets only contained an occasional bit of litter. Unfortunately there was litter on the beach when coming through the tunnel and there was also some at the GAA club, but overall it was looking well on the day.

Waste Minimisation:

Malahide has scored very well in this category since its introduction and we are very pleased to hear of the success of your schools in maintaining Green Flag status. Your recycling points were again well presented and were obviously being well utilised. Well done.

Tidiness:

Malahide is generally a very well maintained and tidy town, with some problems only emerging on closer inspection as referred to above. The town has set such high standards over the years, it is to some extent a victim of its own success with very high expectations created. However none of the problems found are in any way insurmountable and a new plan could really provide the impetus to put Malahide right back on top.

Residential Areas:

The Chamley Park development features attractive stone pedestals with the name of the development in cursive writing. The building itself is an understated light coloured brick with timber window frames which is quite appealing. The trellis' along the path leading into the development provide an attractive entry. The double story terrace painted in subdued colours opposite the train station on the Malahide road was admired. The Casino is a wonderful unique development with its stone walls and walkways. St Sylvester's Villas were well kept. The name sign needed cleaning but otherwise this area was neat and tidy. The Robswall development was quite stately in appearance and well presented. The landscaping in this area was to a very high standard. The Old Estuary Mill provided a lovely use of timber. The more mature Gainsborough Estate was well kept. Killeen Park was very tidy and featured a good amount of green space. It was wonderful to see the old cottages on Margaret's Road and in St Sylvester's Village so well maintained. The thatched cottage on Cove Road looked well. Malahide Marine Village was well presented on the day of adjudication and James St and James Terrace featured Georgian style buildings that were in impeccable order.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Roads and pathways were generally to a good standard and we note that you were involved in having them upgraded in recent years - well done. It was great to see the cycle path extended all the way out to the yacht club. Approach roads into Malahide were all neatly kept and the surfaces of the main roads were in good condition, with the Malahide Road entrance with its long avenue of mature trees particularly attractive.

General Impression:

Malahide is certainly a lovely town and is very fortunate to have so many natural amenities in an urban area. As stated above, its own high standards and many fine achievements over the years create a level of

expectation and therefore bad points can stand out all the more. There is no reason at all for Malahide not be competing for top honours in TidyTowns in the near future and the preparation of a new 5 year environmental plan could be a new impetus to put Malahide back on top where it belongs. Well done on all that you have achieved to date.

Second Round Adjudication:

Malahide is always a pleasure to visit and never fails to impress, and this year was no exception. However, a light scattering of litter in the vicinity of the tennis club created a negative impression. The railings in this location and the nameplate board should be repainted before next year's competition. A distinct problem area on 2nd adjudication from the point of view of litter control was evident at the Green in the vicinity of the monument. This is a popular area of the town and perhaps a more active daily litter patrol of this area would provide a solution? Paviers appeared to have been abandoned in this location also - building materials should be removed once construction work is complete. The new information maps throughout the town were admired and are of great benefit to visitors to the town. Floral displays abounded on commercial properties and landscaped areas throughout and these made a positive impact.