

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Mallow** Ref: **656**
County: **Cork(North)** Mark: **233**
Category: **F** Date(s): **09/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	38
The Built Environment	50	36
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	16
Litter Control	50	20
Waste Minimisation	20	9
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	233

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you very much for the typed up entry form and thanks also for the support material. You are getting good assistance from the 25 members who participate on a weekly basis. There is a good response from the Chamber of Commerce and business traders from your meetings with them. I note that Cork County Council, Mallow Town Council, Avondhu and Blackwater Development and the Chamber of Commerce are in co-operation with the committee. You are getting the message across to the community with all those agencies listed and this is very positive. The St Patrick's Day parade is a great social occasion. It is worthwhile to communicate with the schools. You have ambitious plans for the next few years and this is very important.

The Built Environment:

The quality of most of the built environment in Mallow is excellent and the shop fronts are well designed. The Hibernian Hotel looked great with floral displays of hanging baskets of attractive flowers. AIB was fresh and clean and again had good colour from the window boxes. The highlight of the street is the Catholic Church which is a visually striking church; it is maintained in excellent condition with splendid shrubs and grassed areas. The meat centre has a beautiful shop front. Irish Nationwide and Centra were well presented. I admired Sheehans' family butchers and Sheehans' bar and restaurant. Mallow dry cleaners had attractive floral arrangements and looked well. FBD insurance is a spacious building and looked good as did Fuller Photography. Away from the town centre Lidl is very well laid out and has some appropriate landscaping and good boundary wall. O'Connors' funeral home is a great cut stone front that was expertly pointed. St Anne's Church of Ireland is a superb old building, visually striking with very good grounds all around it making it a picturesque location. The traditional stone wall and sturdy gate have a distinctive flavour. Tesco is well appointed with good landscaping. O'Brien Street sported a number of modern shops. The market square shopping centre is developed to a high standard and has some wonderful landscaping.

St Patricks National school is a credit to all concerned- neat, with trees, flowers and shrubs and manicured lawns; it was tremendous to see the green flag flying outside. The other schools are looked after very well also and I admired the Mercy centre, St Mary's Secondary school is expertly laid out with majestic landscaping and grassed areas. Mallow Convent School is perfect as well. Bríd Haven nursing home is a spacious modern complex with great landscaping. Mallow railway station has defining architectural qualities and kept in a perfect condition. The County Council complex is a well looked after and modern structure. The above mentioned places are intended to give a flavour of the high standard of the built environment.

Landscaping:

There is great attention paid to landscaping in Mallow and I saw the work that you did lately. The tasty and well planned displays of landscaping at different locations give a fresh and picturesque appearance to the town, and this coupled with the efforts of the schools, private houses and business houses make for a wonderful show. Perhaps the main street could get a few more public tubs of flowers or shrubs. The two main roundabouts on the Cork Limerick road play a prominent role and are beautiful.

I liked in particular the work that was done in the children's playground and it further enhances this fine facility. Some areas are disturbed by the very necessary work that is going on in the flood relief programme and it gives the authorities an opportunity to enhance Mallow further with trees and shrubs.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

I note that you appreciate that you are weak in this category, but you have some ambitious plans for the future. There is an abundance wildlife in all those great mature trees, walls and ditches around Mallow and you could get some people with a specific interest in the outdoor pursuits to give you some advice on the topic. It is pleasing to find the two swans have returned to the island at the centre of Blackwater river.

Litter Control:

I note you finished well down in the IBAL competition in 2008. However, I did notice that quite a lot of work was in progress on the day of adjudication and the town was looking the better for it. There is a very large area to be covered. There were plenty well serviced litter bins at suitable locations around the town.

Waste Minimisation:

I understand there is some delay in getting your waste treatment depot up and running, but I am surprised that a town of the size of Mallow are so far behind other areas in this context. It is good to see that some of the schools have the green flag status and this is a great way of educating the young people on the race against waste.

Tidiness:

You have undertaken quite a bit of work under the heading of tidiness in the coming year. There is some untidiness caused by the public works that are under construction, but I felt that the contractors are keeping untidiness to a minimum. The national problem of cigarette butts on the streets is again evident in Mallow, but I did see some public house owners were getting the footpaths cleaned in front of their shops. In general the weed control was good, but some weeds were observed in isolated places.

Residential Areas:

The Elms is an attractive estate with some well mature trees in the green area, but the grass was high and neglected somewhat. The Alders is a tidy housing estate. There some very well kept houses up from the Alders. Bachelors Walk has a mix of different types of houses and the standard of maintenance and presentation is quite good. The Old Course housing estate has a spectacular entrance and I admired the lighting system with the cables underground. In some estates the contractors have stopped building for the time being, but this is happening all around the country. Cliften is a nicely appointed housing estate. There is a distinct pride of place attitude to the townspeople in the way that the traditional town houses are kept in such fine condition. Around in different places there are some spectacular houses with wonderful lawns, shrubs, trees and flowers. There are other estates in excellent condition and I have mentioned the above to give a flavour of the built environment.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

All the main roads are in quite good condition approaching the town. The road signs are clean clear and distinct. The road verges are kept in great condition on the approach roads and sport a fresh and welcoming image. Some of the roads in the town are obviously broken up due to the ongoing works. The bridges in Mallow are quite attractive. The back streets are very well developed to a high degree and link well to the town

centre.

General Impression:

It was a pleasure to stop off in Mallow for the first time in many years and I was delighted to find that the place has been well improved with the old town blending in with the new buildings. I felt that there has been great attention given to planning matters as business is operating in an orderly fashion. There are some fine parking spaces and parks for the cars. Well done to all concerned.