

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Malin** Ref: **706**  
County: **Donegal** Mark: **294**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **22/06/2009**  
**31/07/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	44
The Built Environment	50	40
Landscaping	50	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	27
Litter Control	50	40
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	20
Residential Areas	40	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	38
General Impression	10	9
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>294</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Thank you for your entry into this year's Tidyowns Competition. This was a very concise but complete entry. Thank you for the clearly marked map which was perfect for use. You have a good-sized committee and meet regularly. Your stated objectives are clear and your overall ambitions are taking Malin in the right direction.

### **The Built Environment:**

Just about every building in Malin is pleasant to the eye. Well done on your upkeep of the older buildings. The pubs are very good and the Malin Hotel is very well kept. The Church of Ireland church is a lovely old building. The HSE building is very neat. The back of the Malin Hotel could do with some judicious painting. Ursula's (the old Malin national school) is extremely neat with nice window boxes.

### **Landscaping:**

The parking and seating area on the Culdaff Road needs to have the grass cut. More work is needed here in terms of planting and weeding. Tree-planting would be a good idea here. It is acknowledged that your plan does include work for this area. The Diamond is a real delight, it is so well turned-out. The white kerbside edging is a great feature. The old telephone box looks well. The TidyTowns plaques are well-presented and the semi-mature and mature trees make the entire area appear very green and leafy.

The Malin Hall gates look very well. The seating area on the Lagg road is very nice. The new gates at the GAA grounds look good. Could the reverse side of the Malin sign (on Culdaff Rd) be used for something?

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

Thank you for the bird species list provided. Well done on your activities to date. Are there any specific wildlife areas within the village? The woodland area mentioned by last year's adjudicator does not seem to be in evidence. Is there a bird nesting box programme outside of the school? Your plans for a wildlife area on the Culdaff Rd are good. A native plant survey might be a good idea too.

#### **Litter Control:**

Your extensive anti-litter work appears to have paid off: no litter was seen on day of visit. Well done. The Busy Green Bee involvement is an eye-catching feature of the village and school's anti-litter work.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

Your excellent recycling initiatives are to be commended. Working with Donegal County Council and the school is very important. The recycling of segregated litter by the Busy Green Bee Co. is great. However, it is not clear that you have addressed the main thrust of this section of the competition. Refer to the Tidy Towns guidelines on this and also ask the County Council for assistance. When the national school goes for its first Green School award, this might make an excellent project for both school and village.

#### **Tidiness:**

The white-washed and rendered walls are excellent. Malin was seen on a sunny afternoon which made it all the more pleasing! Footpaths and other surfaces looked good. Weed control was good. The recycling bins could do with a wash, as could the sign which is partially obscured by the bottle banks.

#### **Residential Areas:**

Houses, gardens and private areas were presented to a very high standard. The gardens on the Lagg Road were particularly good. Millbrook was exceptionally neat. The Connolly Foundation houses and grounds looked very neat and tidy.

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

The approach to Malin on the Carn Road is quite exceptional, thanks to the magnificent bridge. The view of the bridge from the Culdaff side is excellent too. The approach from Lagg Rd is very nice. The hedgerow is well formed here. There is a nice little wetland here with irises, angelica, sedges and meadowsweet.

#### **General Impression:**

Malin is a lovely little village and it feels as if one is entering a somewhat different world when crossing that impressive bridge. There might be an argument for presenting some information on the history or nature of the area. The level of care which exists is quite tangible. Your group and village is wished every success in the competition.

#### **Second Round Adjudication:**

The marvellous whitewashed stone walls along the main approach and throughout the village are a hallmark of Malin and always maintained to the highest standards. The village is set in some magnificent scenery, and the adjudicator was pleased to note that it remains as attractive and unspoilt as ever. The verges on approach and to the main Diamond/village green were neat and well cut. The roses and petunias made a strong impact in this location. The retention of the traditional phone box is commendable and the properties around the Diamond were fresh and well presented, the Church of Ireland being particularly admired. The outbuilding opposite the bridge and main approach is an attractive traditional feature. St Patrick's Hall and associated car parking were well maintained, with good landscaping. The Kathleen and Michael Connolly Foundation and associated Village Homes were well maintained. The picnic areas by the waterfront and on the Malin Head road were both well maintained and neat, with brightly whitewashed walls. Some rust staining was evident to the facade of the Sub Aqua Club building. Both the Health Centre and Millbrook were as well maintained as ever. The stream area at this location is a wonderfully peaceful space.