

Tidy Towns Competition 2016

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Malahide** Ref: **159**
County: **Dublin** Mark: **307**
Category: **G** Date(s): **18/06/2016**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	54	54
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	41	42
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	39	40
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	34	34
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	12	13
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	48	49
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	38	38
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	37	37
TOTAL MARK	450	303	307

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Malahide Tidy Towns is welcome back to the Supervalu Tidy Towns competition 2016. It was a pleasure for this adjudicator to visit your lovely seaside town. Your entry is clearly laid out and interspersed with photos (perhaps make them slightly bigger). Being unfamiliar with Malahide, we found the maps somewhat difficult to follow (please include your number key beside the map); however we did pick up a tourist map at the parish centre, which enabled us to find our way around your various projects in conjunction with your entry form.

You have a committee of 10 members and as well as 14 additional sub-committee members and over 50 volunteers. You receive strong support from individual businesses as well the Malahide Chamber of Commerce. A wide range of community groups are represented on your committee – this bodes well for the success of your projects. You are forging good links with outside agencies such as Fingal Co Co and Irish Rail. Local groups supporting your activities included Malahide Camera club, Horticultural Society, Historical Society and Community Forum. You communicate your messages via traditional channels as well as social media. We like the adopted 'Malahide' logo. You are well organised in terms of your ongoing relevant work in partnership with your local schools. Similarly you take the many annual festivals in your stride and appear to have no difficulty in rounding up the volunteers to prepare for and manage these events from a tidiness/litter point of view. You have the invaluable assistance of community employment and Tus workers to help you with such activities. Thank you also for including your 5 Year Plan summary (now in year 2), clearly laid out under the Tidy Towns category headings. Keep up the good work!

Built Environment and Streetscape / An Timpeallacht Thógtha agus Sráid-dreacha:

We read with interest of the colour palette developed by Tidy Towns along with the Chamber of Commerce and Fingal Co Co. Glad to note the guidance is not being taken on board by business owners in the town. The newly launched Malahide App (also available as Gaeilge) includes a Heritage walk that brings visitors on a walk of 39 points of interest around the town. Your ongoing lobbying efforts to have the (unoccupied) Xtravision façade improved are commended. We are delighted to read that the former Malahide Casino is now in public ownership and we wish you luck with this exciting project. Malahide has some lovely shopfronts that reflect the true character of the streetscape.

Please take the time to read the text under each heading to remind you of what information goes where. There is some category confusion throughout your form which risks the adjudicator missing out on some pertinent information. We are delighted to read that you have an Irish conversation group meeting once a week in Seomra Tae. The bilingual street signs were noted., though some streets appeared to have no name sign. The Grand Hotel is an impressive building with nicely landscaped grounds that enhance this approach to the town. The public toilets were in good order. The modern Pastoral Centre blends in well with the adjacent church of St Sylvester. The lovely Carnegie library was admired as was the distinctive 'Gibneys' with its red and white colour theme.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

We are delighted to note that funding has been allocated to improve your Village Green space and we look forward to seeing the completed project in the near future. The new raised bed at the railway bridge looked well. Thank you for showing us a photo of your new winter-planting initiative for your flower baskets. The planting of seven oak trees in the Demesne to commemorate 1916 is a fitting tribute. It is reassuring to read that your committee members have been trained in basic tree maintenance, with the aid of the Malahide Horticultural Society. The Heritage Garden at the train station was admired – we are delighted to read that it received a recent award. The colourful hanging baskets give a welcoming impression. The Tennis Club is nicely landscaped along the roadside. The Garda Station also has a good mix of planting, maintained by Tidy Towns we understand. The boat works well here. The Malahide Marina Village also has good landscaping and an attractive design. Railway Avenue has some well-maintained planting along the stone wall. At the Church of St Sylvester, we were impressed by the pared back landscaping scheme that doesn't detract from the backdrop. Church Road has a lovely line of trees.

Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fiadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádúrtha:

Malahide has huge potential in terms of this category. You are blessed with an array of natural amenities and habitats. We are assured to read that you have a strong awareness of the beauty and importance of your natural environment and you are keeping it in mind across all your Tidy Towns activities. Example of this is the wish to protect and encourage your wildflower corridors with the support of Fingal Co Co Biodiversity Officer. The Frog survey is so simple and yet so innovative. It is also a fun and practical way for you younger residents to learn about their natural environment and take a role in protecting it. Well done to all involved. The Library Bee Garden is another great way of raising awareness of the importance of our bees. The new Heritage Trail app also highlights many of Malahide's important natural amenities such as the Malahide Estuary and coastal walks.

Sustainable Waste and Resource Management / Bainistiú Acmhainní agus Dramhaíola Inbhuanaithe:

Malahide is well served in terms of train links – it was lovely to see so many visitors arrive at the Train Station, where we also observed ample bike parking and shelter. We didn't see it on the day but the Toots train is another novel way of transporting visitors around Malahide. We are glad to read that you are installing water butts to enable you to use rainwater as opposed to mains water to water plants. Your green waste is either composted at the local allotments or mulched for use on your beds. Well done to all the schools that have been awarded a Green Flag, particularly the students of Oliver Plunkett's N.S. for achieving their 7th Green Flag! We know they have been bringing home lots of tips on how to save energy and help our environment. We would be interested in hearing any follow up (particularly regarding residents changing habits leading to less food waste). Are any of your hotels/pubs/restaurants involved in any Green Business programme (e.g. Green Hotel/Green Hospitality). You continue to promote your local recycling facilities.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Your attractive town draws many visitors and that brings with it challenges in terms of litter management. That said, we found the town very clean on the day of our visit so your efforts are paying dividends. You are very organised in terms of your litter picking rotas that cover seven days a week. You have brought residents and businesses on board so that everybody is playing their part. Do you segregate your clean up materials for recycling? We would like to hear more about how your 'Adopt a Patch' scheme is working in Malahide. It is interesting that you say that the newly painted bins attract less vandalism. Most bins were well maintained.

Like many other towns, graffiti is an ongoing issue. It didn't detract from our visit to Malahide but very frustrating on your end no doubt. Your quick response is keeping this under control. Dalkey Tidy Towns has been quite successful in targeting graffiti vandals, in conjunction with their local Garda Station so it might be worth getting more details from them. Your vigilance with regard to advertising posters is also acknowledged. This adjudicator is not a fan of Christmas decorations in June, such as the one observed at the Veterinary Clinic. Things were a little untidy at the Train Station car park, mainly due to the overflowing bins being visible from the main entrance. There were also a few items lying around nearby, giving it a somewhat untidy appearance. The lights on the Bank of Ireland detract from an otherwise attractive façade. Do keep an eye on litter bins to ensure they are in clean condition and all lettering intact. The ivy growing out of the bin near the tennis court should be removed. Wire clutter over McCabes Pharmacy also detracts. The bus stop outside the library needs straightening.

Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:

You have taken the right approach in focussing on residents associations and encouraging them to work with you for the greater good of Malahide. You appear to have the community on side and we were impressed with the general standard of presentation throughout your residential areas. These included among others Carsfield Manor (the stop sign needs attention), St. Margaret's Road, Seabury and Inbhir Ide, where some colourful planting has taken place. There is a lovely green area near Parnell cottages. The Old school house was admired. St. James Terrace contains beautiful 3 storey homes and businesses. Well done to all residents for playing their part.

Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:

Approach roads are very well maintained with good signage. Tourist information signage was in excellent order. The proposed new park 'n ride facility will be welcomed no doubt. The new pedestrian crossing at the Mall means that residents and visitors can more easily enjoy walking about this area of the town. The same goes for the new

pedestrian link proposed for linking Robswall Park to Grove Road. Well done to the businesses for sponsoring the attractive 'Welcome to Malahide' signs with planting. Do include a photo of your spring bulbs next time. Laneways were clean, many had name signs. Some streets need name signs, such as around the corner from Railway Court, where we passed a colourful mix of residences and small businesses. The coastal walk was a highlight

Concluding Remarks:

Your organised structure and positive approach is leading to many improvements on the ground and increased community pride in your lovely village. Well done!