

Tidy Towns Competition 2012

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Malahide** Ref: **159**
County: **Dublin(Fingal)** Mark: **293**
Category: **G** Date(s): **09/07/2012**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2011	Mark Awarded 2012
Overall Development Approach	50	45	45
The Built Environment	50	40	40
Landscaping	50	37	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	33	33
Litter Control	50	29	29
Tidiness	30	18	18
Waste Minimisation	20	10	11
Residential Areas	40	35	36
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	36	36
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	400	291	293

Overall Development Approach:

Malahide is welcome to the 2012 TidyTowns competition. Thank you for your entry form, map and supporting documentation. Your committee and volunteers are working diligently to prepare your lovely bustling town for the competition. The support you have in doing this task from agencies, residents and businesses in the area shows that Malahide has pride in its town and aims to enhance and develop further. Having a student in the school as a member of your committee is a great advantage particularly in the environmental work. Your committee have the experience of preparing your town for the competition which are good at communicating with the relevant bodies and using the media to your advantage. Likewise when a town sees the improvements that the TidyTowns has made it makes your job a lot easier. Good luck with the competition this year.

The Built Environment:

The streetscape of Malahide is like a picture postcard. From the magnificent shop fronts, lanterns, beautiful hanging baskets, busy streets and a heritage of buildings, Malahide is very much a haven of activity. It has magnificent restaurants and apartment blocks towering down to the town. The Train Station with its heritage garden is another part in the town's heritage. There is a beautiful setting of apartments beside the Presbyterian Church. This building has wonderful stone and features a green spire. Cricket is an important sport in this town and the Cricket Club looks very well. The fine building of St Sylvester's Church is been renovated as is St Andrews Church of Ireland, another superb stone building and it is good to see these buildings being renovated to their original glory. Sylvester's G.A.A. club 1903-2003 another impressive building. The Malahide Casino building with its fine thatch roof was noted. Tiresome work looking at these beautiful buildings, time for a coffee in one of your lovely restaurants.

Landscaping:

Approaching the town from Skerries the allotments was the adjudicator's first stop. This is a lovely project, very much user friendly with plenty of plants to be seen. It is good to note that you will be growing your own perennials for the landscape in the town. Onward bound the award Entente Florale surrounded by beautiful landscaping with a nice background of hedging was superb. It is easy to see how Malahide got this fine award. The bee garden at the magnificent Library was another nice experience incorporating good landscaping. The Heritage Garden at the Station House was really impressive and through the streets hanging baskets were a delight. Walking to the Malahide Marino the fine green area at the front with some landscaping, the adjudicator noticed that some beds were not sown here. Were they meant to be? The nice boat feature planting at Inbhir Ide was magnificent and a feature like this is very appropriate to a fine seaside town like Malahide.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Like the landscaping the area is a natural habitat for wildlife. The many walks are ideal for walking enthusiasts. Take a stroll along the beach and you encounter the sound of many birds which is a lovely experience. Malahide Castle if you want the shade of magnificent trees also provides habitats for birds and wildlife. The new nature heritage walk planned will be a great development for walkers and they will be educated as they walk. The wildflower meadows are a pleasant area for wildlife. Your biodiversity plan ensures you will be carefully watching the habitats and planting.

Litter Control:

Litter control in a busy town is difficult to combat. Without a planned routine litter gets out of hand. Your group have a good plan of action in place with regular clean ups. From your pictures there is plenty of activity around litter control. Your committee, two FAS workers and volunteers are doing tremendous work to deal with combatting litter. Engaging with the residents and local school children will also help. On the day of adjudication some litter at the Marino green was spotted.

Tidiness:

Malahide although busy has an overall tidy appearance. The shops avoid causing too much clutter on the streets which is good. Traffic moves freely with no hold ups. Weed growth on kerbs is problematic this year and can create an untidy look. The dreaded graffiti pops its head up at Malahide Castle with graffiti on hoarding, or is that an artist at work? The closed building on the corner looks untidy. Do try and engage with the owner if possible to improve the appearance.

Waste Minimisation:

The Green Village which has a suitable name is doing good work supporting waste minimisation. It is nice to see they are supporting businesses. You have a good recycling plan and it is being well used in the community. Using compost from composted waste in the allotments is good practice and this type of waste minimisation is greatly encouraged. It is reducing the amount of waste produced in the community which is the key factor in this category and you are doing good work addressing it.

Residential Areas:

Seabury at one end of the town and Seapark which are nearly a town in themselves have well presented entrances with good landscaping. Leaving the estates and driving into Malahide one has to note the old traditional houses that once was Malahide before it expanded outward. Throughout the town many striking houses some behind fine stone walls all form part of the streetscape. Inbhir Ide was the adjudicator's favourite, well maintained and quaint with nice brick around the windows. The many apartments that now have become part of this town all blended well into the streetscape and added character to the town.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The tree lined well landscaped approach roads were well maintained and give a good first impression. This is a town that has pride in itself and its people. The wall around the demesne of the Castle is superb. If the adjudicator had some bad areas, the railings along the bridge at the Train Station need painting and the 50km speed limit sign needs cleaning. The hedges were fine on the approach roads and not cut as it is in this category that we remind entrants that hedge cutting is not permitted during the nesting season between the 01st March and 31st August.

General Impression:

It was a very pleasurable experience to visit and adjudicate this beautiful town. Malahide is a town that is bustling with activity and has a good committee with some good plans in place to drive the town forward. The committee is working with the entire community and doing a hard job very well. Good luck in the competition in 2012 and in the future. Time for another coffee before departure.

