




Tidy Towns Competition 2014 Report on Mallow

Total marks, 266 out of 450. Last year's mark, 255.

Community Involvement and Planning-42 marks out of 60.

Built Environment and Streetscape- 38 marks out of 50.

Landscaping and Open Spaces- 37 marks out of 50.

Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities- 23 marks out of 50.

Sustainable Waste and Resource Management- 15 marks out of 50.

Tidiness and Litter Control- 50 marks out of 90.

Residential Streets and Housing Areas- 30 marks out of 50.

Approach Roads, Streets and Lanes- 31 marks out of 50.

Community Involvement and Planning

Many thanks for your entry in this year's Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for a very complete entry although it is felt that perhaps too much information submitted can be a drawback. Your group is referred to the guidelines given in the entry form itself. When it comes to getting the important details across, 'less might be more' with regard to information submitted. Printing double-sided will halve your paper loading too. Please bear this in mind for future entries. That said, your submission in this category was very detailed and relevant. The adjudicator won't recount this back to you but suffice to say that you demonstrate well your organisation's abilities to work well and get support. A last word on your map: please remember to mark clearly your projects on this. The adjudicator was a little unclear about what was for inspection and where! Extensive works were ongoing on Davis Street on day of visit and this has been taken into account.

Built Environment and Streetscape

Thank you for your very clear list of projects taken on this year. Washing and cleaning seem to have played a major role! There are many independent

shops in Mallow, a few that caught the eye were Cremin's Bike Shop, Food Capers café and several clothes shops. There is a very neat and well kept garage and shop on Shortcastle Street.

The Clock House is long empty and this is a shame. What are the plans for this? O'Keeffe's is a beautiful old shopfront. There are a number of derelict premises. To date the town has tried hard to deal with some of this dereliction. As often, the public houses are among the nicer premises. The Spa pub looks very well and Albert Lynch's Bar is gorgeous. The Roundabout Bar is another lovely premises. The Chinese restaurant is in need of attention, urgently.

The Court House is in very good condition. Scoil Padraic Naofa (national school) looks very well indeed and the gates here were admired. The old No. 1 National School is beautiful. The swimming pool was presentable on day of visit. The castle was

very briefly visited but as there was a group working here at time of visit, the adjudicator didn't linger. The grounds appear well kept and it is very leafy and pleasant. Is this private property? It wasn't abundantly clear.

Landscaping and Open Spaces

Thank you for supplying 'action' pictures of your group at work. It helps place projects in context. It's a wise move to engage a landscape architect for planning your future projects, money well-spent and it'll pay you back many times over. There are many open amenity spaces in Mallow and these are evolving and improving over the years. There were works underway in the Town Park on day of visit but the adjudicator wasn't entirely sure what. This site is on its way to being a very fine amenity area. The playground and outdoor gym are in excellent condition. TP O'Neill Park is a fine space but was very untidy on day of visit. There were empty planters, the fountain was dry and road works signage

and traffic cones were scattered about. The rockery garden was visited. The large signage here rather detracts from the work.

Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities

Well done on your various projects in this category. Your appreciation of the importance of the Blackwater is great to read about. The signage here is excellent. With regard to the frog and oyster you mention, the adjudicator recommends that you check the accuracy of these. The work on eel populations is a really important initiative. It is hoped that this species will recover its numbers before critical levels are reached.

Tidiness and Litter Control

Your submission on your anti-litter actions is excellent - one of the best that this adjudicator has seen for a while. Suffice it to say that all of the 'litter-boxes' are ticked! There was a little litter on day of visit but your team and its allies are on top of the issue. Keep it up. There are some tidiness issues to be tackled though, as with any large town. The N20 approach has discarded signage, weeds in prominent areas and some informal signs. There is a massing of informal signs at the bridge too. There is a stone missing from a gate pier here. The recent and ongoing works are taken in account here. A happy outcome will see the cables about the Clock House going underground. Thanks for the pictures in this category, by the way, it really helps.

Sustainable Waste and Resource Management

Once again, well done for engaging experts to assist you with this technical and potentially tricky part of the competition. While you have listed some really great initiatives here - the school garden competition, the information day, there is a wealth of info provided last year by the Tidy Towns Unit on this

category for ideas and inspiration. Go as well to the website of the **local authority prevention network (LAPN)** at <http://toolkit.localprevention.ie/> for community-based tips and information.

Residential Streets and Housing Areas

Again, you have many fine initiatives described here. Not all of these are yours alone but that's the point of working in partnership. You have mentioned actions that will hopefully breathe life and colour (carefully) back into the Main Street and surrounding areas outwards. The terrace at West End is really nice. Some gate posts are in need of work here. Another fine terrace is to be found at Emmet Street and along Spa Walk. Are all of the satellite dishes here still in use?

Approach Roads, Streets and Lanes

This is another area which is a work in progress for your group and Mallow itself. Once again, you have consulted wisely so good plans are afoot, no doubt. Despite your work on signage there are still sign poles in need of cleaning and painting. The railings of the Tesco car-park are in need of painting too. O'Brien Street was a welcome break from roadworks and traffic. Shoulders Walk was very pleasant. The Market Square is lovely now, clean and bright. The landscaping in front of the railway station was admired. The footpath and overbridge here are in good condition, although messy below.

Traffic is a major issue for the town. No doubt, pedestrianisation has been discussed for the Main Street/Davis Street. Might this help? The adjudicator is unconvinced as to how bike-friendly Mallow is. Despite having cycled around your town, this adjudicator can't recall being in a bike lane or dedicated bike/footpath. This is an issue to address.