

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **BANDON**  
County : **CORK**  
Category : **E**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 07-07-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	35
The Built Environment	40	28	27
Landscaping	40	28	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	27	29
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	19	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	27
General Impression	10	7	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>198</b>

## **Bandon, County Cork**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

One of the most striking aspects to your development plan is the wide ranging list of co-operative sections of the community. It is encouraging to note the assistance of statutory bodies and community bodies alike in such a supportive manner. The committee faces some monumental tasks in overcoming problems such as dereliction and without enlisting the services of these bodies and incorporating same in any long term projections for the town it would prove difficult to continue to make further advances. Thank you for including a well marked out map, which proved very useful on the day of adjudication.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The significance of Bandon's commercial and historical heritage has not been lost on business people and locals. The standard of presentation among the local commercial premises is very high. This commendation encompasses the many brightly presented professional offices, financial institutions, public houses and stores, particularly located on the Main Street. Congratulations to all concerned. Bandon's rich ecclesiastical heritage is wonderfully preserved by the presentation of its churches and older school buildings and convents. The conversion of the old Church of Ireland building into a heritage centre is an excellent initiative and one which could be followed by other centres. The problems with the buildings in the McSwiney Quay area are noted. The old courthouse needs to be freshened up. It is such a shame to observe so many derelict buildings in the area, which obviously have had strong commercial links to the town down through the ages. The garda station and Millbrook Hospital were both greatly admired.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The work carried out on the mill on the Clonakilty Road looked very well and very appropriate to the towns industrial heritage. Good work has also been carried out on the towns name signs. Allen Square looked resplendent on the day of adjudication and similarly the avenue leading to it. Other areas to catch the eye were Sean Hales place, the landscaping by the riverside at St. Patrick's Quay and the surrounds of the County Council offices. The disabled accessibility to these offices is commended. The work in Chapel Street looked attractive. Window boxes, troughs and hanging baskets are employed to glorious effect throughout the town, adding great natural colour.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The erection of the wildlife board is an excellent initiative. There is

tremendous potential for a riverside development in the town, particularly as there was a lot of birdlife in evidence by the footbridge. Consultation with a local wildlife expert in conjunction with your plans for a riverside walk may prove a useful exercise.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

The centre of the town was relatively litter free. However, attention is required in some of the back areas. A reasonable amount of disposable litter was in evidence by the ships near St. Patrick's Quay, the road past the Co-op, the Macroom Road and by the riverside at the footpath. A small bit of vigilance in this regard is required.

## **TIDINESS**

The tidy appearance of many of the large commercial premises in the town deserves favourable comment. The presentation of garage forecourts and commercial grounds is of a very high standard. Good work was being carried out in the grounds of the heritage centre on the day of adjudication. The picnic bench on the Clonakilty Road needs to be repainted and unsightly graffiti on the doors of the Institute Building should be attended to. The main areas of the town looked tidy with a noticeable absence of excessive street furniture and very few shops displaying wares outside their premises. Comments made by last year's adjudicator regarding untidy backs of houses are reiterated.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The houses of Connally Street are brightly painted and looked very attractive. A high number of individual properties in the vicinity of Allen Square were greatly admired, as were houses and gardens on the Dunmanway Road and in the Deerpark area. The old town houses on South Main Street and Oliver Plunkett Street are sensitively maintained and add great character to the town.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

The Cork Road approach is particularly impressive, although is marred somewhat by its use as a temporary halting site. It also suffers from excessive signage, located outside one business premises (7 signs). Verges on the Innishannon Road could be tidied up and broken stone railings need to be repaired. A footpath on the Ballinspittle entrance required urgent attention while the road surface on Convent Hill Road is poor. The erection of street names throughout the town receives highest commendation. The Dunmanway entrance to the town looked well maintained, but speed limit poles need to be repainted. The good work being carried out at St. Patrick's Hill is noted. Stone boundary walls are impressively maintained. The public toilet and car-park near the Cork entrance are neatly presented.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Bandon is a town of immense character with a rich heritage, which is strongly mirrored in the town today. A lot of hard work still lies ahead, but you are progressing in a commendable manner. Good luck in your future endeavours.