

*"Caring for our environment"*

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

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 29-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	35
The Built Environment	40	30	28
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	28	27
Tidiness	20	14	13
Residential Areas	30	20	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>202</b>

## **Bandon, County Cork**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Many thanks for your very detailed submission. You obviously have established a strong working relationship with local organisations and the local community (especially the business community). Bandon as one of the major towns in West Cork has a lot of consequent traffic and its associated problems. The town has succeeded in tackling these issues and, to a large extent, overcoming them. The development of the by-pass will be immeasurably helpful in this regard. The Committee seems to be a rather small one for a town of Bandon's size.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Both public and commercial premises were presented to a very high standard on adjudication day. The TSB is situated in a magnificent old building. Commercial premises throughout the main streets were very colourful. The Dew Drop Inn was very fresh; however, the projecting plastic signage should be removed and replaced with more traditional timber ones. Twomey and Crowley's was very fresh in petrol blue. The Post Office is a fine imposing building festooned with colourful window boxes. The Methodist Church with its large arched windows on the stone gabled facade pleasantly terminates the vista as one approaches on the Cork Road. The banks looked well - the AIB in brick and the Bank of Ireland in stone with its magnificent window boxes. The Cinema and Garda Station could be freshened up before next year's competition. The streets to the Macroom side of the bridge were not presented to as high a standard as those to the main streets on the far side. St. Brogan's college was well presented with its magnificently neat grounds. As was the Presentation Primary School. The magnificent grounds with their grassy banks leading up to the West Cork Heritage Centre looked magnificent. The Courthouse had been freshly painted and the magnificent St. Peter's Church of Ireland set as it is on the hill looked quite spectacular.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Public landscaped areas looked extremely well on adjudication day, for example that adjacent to the Fort at the junction of the Macroom and Dunmanway Roads with its stone benches. The pump with its simple stone wall surround at the junction of the Bantry and Macroom Roads was admired as was the new simple Mill Wheel and green on the Clonakilty Road. Commercial premises had also made an effort with their landscaping. The Telecom Eireann grounds looked extremely well as did the Centra and Statoil with their stone bridge and magnificent landscaping with planted beds of petunias on the Clonakilty Road. The landscaping at the

waterworks area also looked very well as did the fountain at Centra and the hanging baskets at the Opel Centre. In terms of future landscaping projects perhaps the ESB sub-station with its cluttered assembly of pylons could be considered for a screening landscaping project.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The project to introduce wild fowl to the river in the town centre is commendable and your plans for panels in relation to the countryside surrounding Bandon will be most informative. In order to develop this aspect of the competition further consult your Tidy Towns handbook which will give you a list of contact names for relevant organisations. Also consult with local experts.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

The standard of litter control was generally very good for a town of Bandon's size. However, some was apparent on the approach roads from Clonakilty, Cork, Macroom and Bantry. More papers were apparent along the North Main Street and behind the railings to the Heritage Centre.

## **TIDINESS**

The town generally gave a neat and ordered appearance on adjudication day. Minor points for consideration would be the bench near the bridge on the Cork Road which was badly in need of paint. The messy yard and shed area opposite the well landscaped area on the Cork Road, and More Miles Tyre Service both appeared quite grubby. The adjudicator was disappointed to note that election posters were still in evidence on the Clonakilty Road.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Houses throughout the town and along approach roads looked well on adjudication day. An attractive terrace opposite the Fair Green area was admired and a housing estate was under construction on the Macroom Road. The well presented houses with attractive gardens on the Macroom Road were admired. The Glen Burn Estate had a magnificent and well presented grassy area to the front and the lush grassy bank to the front of the housing estate beside the presentation primary school looked magnificent. The adjudicator noted that work was underway to provide residences to the Quays area in former warehouse buildings. It is encouraging to see this area developing along the riverside. The hanging baskets to the houses leading up to Allen Square looked quite magnificent.

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

Along the Clonakilty Road the grass had been cut but the

dead grass had not yet been removed which gave quite a messy appearance. The town nameplate sign on this side of the town was quite grubby. Further in towards the town there were some well maintained verges to one side of the road, however, the other side was covered with dead grass. Along the Cork Road work seemed to be in progress in relation to the by-pass and the grass had already been roughly cut back. Along the Macroom Road the trees closer in towards the town are coming along nicely and should be a fine asset for future generations. The verges had been roughly cut back and some litter was apparent. The overhanging trees on the Bantry Road makes this an attractive entrance into the town. The grass had been roughly cut by the speed limit sign and again the town nameplate sign was quite grubby, although the petunias at the base were admired. Work was in progress to the footpath of North Main Street on adjudication day.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The old walled town of Bandon is one which is steeped in historical and architectural significance. As the gateway to West Cork Bandon has an important role to play in creating a good first impression for the visitor. This is a task that it carries out well.