

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 14-06-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	35
The Built Environment	40	30	30
Landscaping	40	32	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	16
Litter Control	40	26	26
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	210	206

Bandon, County Cork

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Bandon Tidy Towns Committee would have appeared to have completed their five year work programme. You have achieved the objectives you set out to, and now it is time to formulate your next five year rolling work programme. Many thanks for the clearly marked map indicating areas where improvements had taken place in the last year.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Most buildings along the main streets looked fine although one or two were in need of some attention. Of particular note were Twomey & Crowley's attractive shop front, the unusual Post Office, James Galvin's, Michael Galvin's, David & Desmond's Auctioneers in pink and yellow and the Launderette along New Road. Bandon has a wealth of fine buildings including the dominant Catholic Church on the hill and the attractive Methodist Church at the bridge. Do discourage projecting plastic signs – most have been replaced but there are still one or two which could be replaced with ones of a more traditional timber variety. Some buildings appeared quite flaky and perhaps the cinema could be painted a brighter colour as the chocolate brown appears quite dull. A most attractive building at the corner of Pearse Street with elaborate plaster work should be restored to its former glory as it looks quite sad. The schools of the town were generally well maintained.

LANDSCAPING

This is an aspect of the competition in which Bandon excels. The magnificent landscaping on both main approach roads looked marvellous in particular, the landscaping outside Eircom and the West Cork Garden Centre with its colourful cheerful displays and stone walling by the riverside on the Clonakilty approach. The water wheel at Old Chapel was well tended as usual – perhaps the garages along this stretch of road could contribute to the overall landscaping of the area. An incidental landscaped space to the houses on the Old Cork Road with its display of marigolds and aubretia to the wall was greatly admired, as was the attractive planting at Sean Hale Place. The Tourism Information Office in stone with its colourful displays including petunias contributes greatly to the presentation of the Cork Road. St. Patrick's Quay looked as well cared for as ever, with its lime trees with thick tree trunks and flower tubs. The grotto with stone wall surrounds was well presented.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

This is an aspect of the competition in which Bandon is extremely fortunate with its two rivers and abundance of

mature trees and green spaces along approach roads. The breeding of duck on the Bandon River is highly commendable – a multitude of ducks and swans were spotted on the day!

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control along the main streets was good on the day. However side streets and the smaller approach roads appeared to be quite littered. Litter was apparent on Watergate Street and on the main Clonakilty approach road. Congratulations in regard to your appointment of a litter warden.

TIDINESS

This category of the competition was quite difficult to judge on adjudication day due to the high level of road works, and road widening taking place on the day. Do discourage advertising hoardings as they can give approach roads and gable walls a very cluttered appearance. Untidy yard areas such as one on the Clonakilty Road should be more successfully screened from public view. Rear areas in the vicinity of the Bandon River appeared quite shabby when viewed from the bridge.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Most of the houses in the main streets and along approach roads looked fine on adjudication day. The houses with gardens on the Newcestown Road close to town were admired – those opposite could perhaps consider introducing some more colour to their presentation. The many attractive houses on Convent Hill and Kilbrogan Hill with abundant colourful hanging baskets were greatly admired. A charming gate lodge near Summerhill Heights looked quite magnificent. Along St. Patrick's Quay many of the houses were quite colourful – however one or two appeared quite shabby in comparison. Your Town Estates Competition is certainly a very worthy idea.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The standard of presentation on the two main roads was extremely good on the day. However the grubby town nameplate sign on the Cork Road looked unfortunate as did that to the Clonakilty side of the town where directional signs were also extremely grubby. This latter road affords the visitor a magnificent view back to the Catholic Church on the hill. The more minor approach roads appeared quite overgrown and road surfaces could have been to a higher standard. Much work to roads was taking place on the day – at Main Street and construction work at St. Patrick's Quay. Do try to ensure that "gaps" in the streetscape in many of the back streets, (which in places form car parking areas) maintain the street line more successfully. This can be done by means of developing the sites, which is to be encouraged, or merely by maintaining the street line with trees or planting of some variety.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Bandon – the gateway to West Cork is a very busy and vibrant town. It has a wealth of historical connections from its past as a walled town. Much work was taking place on the day in terms of road works and construction work etc. These should hopefully enhance the town for next year's competition.