

# Tidy Towns Competition 2003

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Bandon**

Ref: **599**

County: **Cork South**

Mark: **214**

Category: **E**

Date: **28/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	37
The Built Environment	40	32	31
Landscaping	40	32	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	25	25
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>212</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Bandon Tidy Town's Committee is certainly one which has its work cut out, given the size of the town. Twenty is a reasonable number of members to have on your committee but perhaps you could consider recruiting more. Your work in relation to the improvement of derelict areas such as McSweeney's Quay is to be commended. Considering the size of Bandon, it performs extremely well in the competition each year. Your five year work programme is progressing well and the adjudicator was pleased to note that you have clearly indicated which areas you have improved upon and which are yet to be completed.

### The Built Environment:

Urban renewal along the quayside is well under way, although it will take some time before the planting has matured. Buildings and property in the town centre generally looked quite well, although there are a number of abandoned shops. The main streets looked cheerful, with their displays of bunting. On the Ballinadee Road, the Old Still was most cheerful in bright red and the Riverview Veterinary Clinic was admired for its modern design and simple individual raised metal lettering. The Methodist Church looked well, in its prominent location, the Chapel Steps and Michael Galvin's were both notable for their freshness, in the centre of the town. Both banks, AIB and Bank of Ireland, contribute well to this aspect of the competition and the Church of Ireland looked extremely well, as did the Catholic Church. The adjudicator was interested to note that the circular structure at Kilbrogan Hill has been sold, as has an empty site opposite. It is to be hoped that these

two developments will be in-keeping with the character of Bandon.

### **Landscaping:**

There is obviously much enthusiasm for this aspect of the competition. The bronze sculpture on the roundabout was greatly admired - its nautical theme and patinated appearance, contrasting with polished elements, is most effective. Rhododendrons had been planted nearby on the Cork Road. Both garden centres on the Cork and Clonakilty sides of the town contribute well to this category of the competition. St. Patrick's Quay is simply presented, with its attractive lime trees to the road's edge. A broken wall on the Clonakilty side of the town will, hopefully, be restored to its former glory, matching in with the rest of the stonework in this location. Perhaps consideration could be given to landscaping the Catholic church car park which is quite prominent on the Clonakilty approach to the town, and the pump area on Pearse Street would also benefit from some landscaped treatment. The attractive planted area by the bridge, with its seating was admired.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

You are indeed fortunate to have the Bandon River flowing through the town. Some work appears to be still under way, to the riverside walk at the new shopping centre as large "do not enter signs" barricaded the way. An unattractive site beyond the car park created a bad impression, as building materials and a trailer appeared to have been abandoned here. The adjudicator was most pleased to note a number of ducks walking along beside the Cork Road!

### **Litter Control:**

The standard of litter control on the day could have been a lot better. Much was noted on the Ballinadee Road and also on the Clonakilty Road, including a number of large cardboard boxes. Rubbish had accumulated at the fence in front of Anglo Irish Beef Processors. Do discourage fly posting, as it gives roadsides a very cluttered appearance.

### **Tidiness:**

Your work in regard to shopfront competitions is to be commended. The modern railings to the bridge on St. Finbarr's Place appeared quite grubby and should be washed down and repainted before next year's competition. The ESB sub-station should be painted before next year also.

### **Residential Areas:**

Your Tidy Estates Competition is a well worthwhile concept. The colourful houses leading up from St. Patrick's Quay were admired. The open space area to an attractive development opposite St. Brogan's was admired as was the Hawthorns, with its stone wall at the entrance area. Houses in the village centre were generally well cared for also.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The Ballinadee Road was quite overgrown and some attractive old mill buildings in this location would benefit from restoration. The Cork Road was quite inconsistent in its presentation. Much of it was overgrown, although some areas had well-cut grass verges. On the Clonakilty Road, the verges had been cut back on one side, but it was quite overgrown on the other. The Macroom Road was fine, with an attractive feature at the town nameplate.

### **General Impression:**

Bandon is a busy and vibrant centre, which continues to do well in the competition, despite the

perceived handicap of being a large centre. It continues to expand at a great rate - do ensure that you continue to monitor its ongoing expansion.