

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Bandon**

Ref: **43**

County: **Cork South**

Mark: **218**

Category: **E**

Date: **23/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	38
The Built Environment	40	32	32
Landscaping	40	32	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	25	25
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	23	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	28
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	218	214

Overall Developmental Approach:

There is a considerable amount of work ongoing in Bandon and the work of the tidy towns committee is very relevant to all the changes that are taking place. The large committee membership is encouraging and hopefully there are many young members included in this number. It is important that the committee keeps a watchful eye on the activities in and around the town and voices its opinion clearly. In particular – where new developments are taking place all reinstatement, landscaping and services should be in place before developers leave the site. The plan of work for the coming years is admirable and it is good to see that the derelict sites and development of waterside areas are included. Much has been done to date and with the aid of the plan a yardstick now can be used to measure annual progress.

The Built Environment:

There are many landmark buildings within the centre and these form the framework for the remainder of the town. The Methodist Church looks very well as does the Church building nearby. The Church of Ireland and the Catholic Church are very significant within the town. The Picture house and Library look well. The Old Allin Institute, hopefully, will find a new life. The Riverside Hall looks well. There are many well painted and decorated shops and business premises throughout the town – these tend to show up those remaining that require attention. The many new buildings in progress will change the face of parts of the town – particularly the Mac Sweeney Quay. The bridges and stonewalls form an important part of the streetscape. The brick and stone arches near St.

Peter's Church are attractive and could be featured better – building appears to be in progress in front of these which may obscure them.

Landscaping:

Good tree planting has taken place over the years in Bandon. This is now paying off well as many trees on the main street and along the Innishannon road are maturing well. On the Innishannon road the trees provide very good screening for the business premises. The floral features along the roadside, by the stonewalls in front of the Motor garages on the Clonakilty road, look very bright. Many floral features throughout the town are helpful in giving a splash of colour, both individual businesses and homeowners deserve credit for this. The garden centres in the town no doubt inspire much horticultural activity in and around the town. The small feature – Allin Garden is attractive.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

With the river flowing through the town some extra opportunities for the appreciation of wildlife should be possible. Riverside walks are always attractive and further development in this regard would be welcome. The footbridge off Mac Sweeney street and riverside walk is attractive and it is good to be able to walk from one part of the town to another without having to go by the streets.

Litter Control:

Litter is always a difficult challenge. There are some small amounts of litter on the streets. Cleaning was in progress while visiting which was good to see. Some litter had been dumped over the small bridge near the Methodist church and along the walkway from the Catholic Church to Patrick's Hill - a considerable amount of rubbish was present all along that passageway.

Tidiness:

There is generally a good level of tidiness in the town. Items like the tin shed at the back of Bolsters Funeral Home, the cluttered appearance at Pearse Street/Bridgelane and up the street by the side of the half Door pub are unhelpful. Major work around the town – as at St. Patrick's Quay and Mac Sweeneys Quay cause temporary untidiness. Work at the steps to the Catholic Church and on the old Cork road cause a lot of disruption - but this is only temporary and the net result will be positive.

Residential Areas:

There is a great deal of residential property within the town and this gives great life to the town. The area along by Connolly Street and Oliver Plunkett, for instance, is a marvelous residential area. The houses are well maintained and occupiers show a pride in their upkeep with well-painted walls and general care of the exteriors. Infill housing is becoming an important aspect of the town too. The Hawthorns estate on the Macroom road is a very tidy estate and the central green with tree planting, as well as the roadside gives a good display.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads are well tended. The Macroom road is attractive with the many stonewalls. The Innishannon road displays a fine tree lined feature and the Clonakilty road is nicely treated.

General Impression:

Bandon is improving. The riverside aspect adds greatly to the impression of the town. With the completion of the works presently being undertaken and when the remaining street side business premises that need decoration are done a interesting picture will emerge.

