

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Bandon**

Ref: **19**

County: **Cork South**

Mark: **223**

Category: **E**

Date: **11/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	39
The Built Environment	40	32	32
Landscaping	40	34	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	17
Litter Control	40	25	25
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	29
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	223	218

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for submission and details of work on hand. We would have welcomed a street map of the town but learn that one does not exist. Perhaps the tourism and development interests would consider publishing one soon. Such a publication would be of great benefit to visitors and locals alike. We are impressed to read that you have a committee of 20. We feel your development plan is now dated and needs upgrading. A town the size of Bandon needs a comprehensive plan outlining phased developments over the next few years. Such a plan will need participation from a variety of agencies willing to play a partnership role. The vast amount of area to be covered could not be achieved by one committee alone so we suggest you contact the Cork Co. Council with a view to having one commissioned.

The Built Environment:

There is an immense mix of old and new buildings throughout the town and like most towns of its size it is also experiencing unprecedented house building at a rapid rate. Such developments have implications for the environment as you try to blend both new and old with compatibility. Some of the old buildings in Bandon have great character and now need protection from obtrusive modern buildings being erected near them. The churches on such elevated sites are dominant and both are well presented. All along main street there are shopfronts of great traditional character and we noticed many were being refurbished/painted on adjudication day. Buildings of interest include Permanent tsb, AIB, Band of Ireland, T. O. Leary, The new sash windows at Sherry Fitzgerald are an

example for others to follow. We also liked the new shopfronts at Weir Street and the Garda Station. The Riverview Centre is excellent and well landscaped.

Landscaping:

This is your strong point and the town was a blaze of colour on a fine July day. The plethora of hanging baskets, window boxes, flower tubs and other containers all combine to give great colour throughout. Also the shrubbery which is more sustaining was rich and varied: the display at the Bandon Coop Stores was excellent, together with that at Seán Hales Place. The Lordan monument is well presented and the adjoining mature lime trees at the green are special, so don't be tempted to cut them back like other areas. The inscription on the monument needs a clean up: also the Mac hAol monument would benefit from a clean up. Well done on the sculpture on the Clonakilty road. We also acknowledge the rich landscaping at the various new garages on the approach roads. We would urge you to concentrate on sustainable landscaping and the benefits of tree planting are well illustrated.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

More than any town in the region you have an abundance of natural habitat for wildlife. The majestic river Bandon is a haven for wildlife. The area around the weir is special where a heron was busy feeding during adjudication. You should follow your river walk development with appropriate wildlife display boards as they would be of great interest to visitors. You can, with ease, raise your marks in this section as you are endowed with all the necessary ingredients for the promotion of wildlife.

Litter Control:

You have some problems in this section and the river is being abused in some areas with people discarding their litter. The bring bank centre at the car park now needs a rethink. The three skips were overflowing on a Monday adjudication and the array of recycling containers were quite dirty. You should now consider investing on a centre near the town that would accommodate a comprehensive array of waste: this would enable the current centre to be moved. You should pay a visit to the new recycling centre in Millstreet where an excellent development has been completed. Litter bins seem adequate in numbers and are well positioned. Well done on the anti litter signs throughout the town.

Tidiness:

You have many problems in this section, principally caused by a great deal of dereliction, unoccupied buildings, unattended open spaces and poor approach roads. There is much overgrowth on the Béal na mBlath approach in particular. The environs of Mill Race are poor and many development sites are poor in presentation. The boundary of the Bridewell needs attention on this interesting building. Long term you should aim to have all overhead wires underground as this would help create an improved image, especially in the core of the town. The walk along the river bank parallel to main street unfolds a great deal of untidy back yards and lane ways.

Residential Areas:

The upsurge in house building will bring with it improved landscaping and perhaps added membership for your committee. The standard of house building is very good and we welcome in particular evidence of infill development on the Cork road. Hawthorns housing estate has some excellent individual gardens offering great colour. The boundary fencing here is poor and residents should be encouraged to plant appropriate hedging. Also Thornfields housing estate will look well when complete: we suggest you plant a row of trees here at the boundary to soften the stone effect.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The road structure on the Cork, Dunmanway and Clonakilty approaches is very good. We noticed some finger post signs in the town need cleaning and some are in need of replacing. Because of the layout of the town you have good opportunity to develop many of the back and side lanes throughout the town. This has been done very successfully in other towns with beneficial effect for commercial outlets and traders.

General Impression:

The town is fast developing and your challenge is to blend the new with the old. The river continues to be a major environmental benefit and offers great potential for amenity development. Your many large impressive buildings are an important link with the past and deserve high maintenance and protection. The character of main street needs continuous vigilance and can be a show piece for Bandon. Planning will be important here to ensure proper development. You have raised your marks again this year and the work in hand is acknowledged.

Second Round Adjudication: