

# Tidy Towns Competition 2006

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Bandon** Ref: **108**  
County: **Cork (South)** Mark: **232**  
Category: **E** Date(s): **03/08/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	39
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	18
Litter Control	50	26
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>232</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Bandon Tidy Town's Committee at 20 strong and having weekly meetings during peak times, shows a commendable commitment to the cause of bettering their environment. You would appear to have a good level of communication with the various local businesses and Cork County Council. Your involvement with local schools and their encouragement to participate in litter control are commendable. We were disappointed to note that you feel larger towns are at a disadvantage in the competition. Over the last number of years it has been the larger towns, such as Westport and Ennis that have actually won! Therefore it is, with a high level of commitment and hard work, entirely possible and indeed has happened! The new work programme to 2009 seems interesting and achievable. The completed one was interesting from the point of view of what's been achieved.

### **The Built Environment:**

The main streets of the town looked well. There are a number of attractive shopfronts such as Prego. The banks of the town looked well-of note being the AIB in brick, the Bank of Ireland in stone and brick and the TSB. Your plans to improve the dereliction in the town are laudable. Plans for the Town Hall, and the Court House were noted and looked forward to. The schools looked well such as two on the bypass including the Gaelscoil. Ted Ambers Bar on the Clonakilty side of the town looked fresh, as did the Bandon Launderette in purple and pink. The Walk in Wardrobe was admired, as was an Tobairin. Discourage the use of curved canopies and encourage their replacement with traditional fabric awnings. Crowley Calnan's and Downing's are attractive fronts. The Munster Arms Hotel on Oliver Plunkett Street looked well. The Fire Station looked fresh. The Catholic Church looked imposing in its prominent position at the top of the town, as did the Methodist church at the crossroads on the Cork road.

### **Landscaping:**

Floral displays on the Clonakilty approach were admired in their integrated stone beds. The Garden Centre on the Cork road contributed well to this category of the competition with its colourful displays and thatched premises. The landscaping on the Cork side of the town is a credit to all concerned. The adjudicator has long admired the unusual patinated bronze marine sculpture on the roundabout in this location, when passing through the town. The newer sculpture of birds in flight at the Bandon 400 monument was also admired. The millwheel at Oldchapel was working on the day and the planting opposite was admired. The nearby grotto and associated planting was admired. The refurbishment of the Market Street fountain is a marvellous conservation project and awareness and appreciation of the heritage of a town (even quite modern pieces such as this) is to be applauded. Unfortunately work to this did not appear to have started on the day. Plans for new landscaping projects were noted and are looked forward to.

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

The extension of the riverside walk will be a marvellous benefit to the townspeople and visitors alike. Have you considered the possibility of a wildlife trail? The erection of wildlife information boards and a riverbank boardwalk are interesting and positive ideas. Some towns have commissioned a wildlife management plan for their towns. The wild duck breeding on the river Bandon is commendable. A heron was spotted on the water on the day.

#### **Litter Control:**

The standard in this category of the competition was quite good on the day given the busy nature of the town. A very light scattering was evident in places along the streets and on both the main approach roads at green spaces. More was evident on the bypass in the low drainage area beside the road and at the bottom of the hill where the bypass meets the Clonakilty road. The provision of extra litterbins is applauded. A black sack had been dumped at the bin at the car park on St Patrick's Quay.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

The active encouragement of the use of the new civic amenity site is applauded, as is the encouragement of businesses to recycle. Have you considered the possibility of organising waste minimization seminars and composting workshops? For further ideas for developing this aspect of the competition you should consult your Tidy Towns Handbook and Race Against Waste brochure.

#### **Tidiness:**

The town centre generally had a neat and ordered appearance on the day. There are a number of empty sites which look quite unfortunate-such as that beside the Esso garage on the Cork side of the town, an abandoned garage at Oldchapel, another abandoned garage on the Cork side of the town and a number of derelict buildings on Oliver Plunkett Street, including one at its junction with the bypass. Another site was spotted on St Patrick's Quay. The couple of outbuildings on the Cork side of the town looked unfortunate, especially that by the roundabout. Weed control measures and the improvement of road markings were noted. A minor outbreak of weeds was noted at a low wall on the Cork end of the bypass. The metal bridge at St Patrick's Quay was in need of attention on the day. Outbuildings should not be neglected when considering overall presentation – tin roofs near the West Cork Garden Centre created a bad impression. Weeds were apparent to a tree at the junction of Pearse Street and St Finbarr's Place, also to the planted troughs on St Patrick's Quay.

#### **Residential Areas:**

Street houses were generally well cared for on the day – those on Oliver Plunkett Street being particularly admired. The brightly coloured stepped houses on the Clonakilty side of the town, viewed from the bypass looked most cheerful. The house and garden beside the Montessori school on the Clonakilty side of the town looked quite magnificent. The planned Tidy Estates and Best Garden Competition sounds like an excellent idea. More attractive colourful houses were noted on St Patrick's Hill. Gleann Bothar is an attractive and well-maintained estate.

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

The approach from Cork is an attractive and well-maintained road for the most part, with well cut grass verges and mature trees. There are a number of car show rooms along this road and the bypass, which are generally well presented and positively contribute to the area. Some soil was evident which suggested a planned landscaping project. Attractive hydrangeas were noted to the grass verges near the roundabout. Along the bypass, the grassy banks had been cut but dead grass had not been removed. The junction signage was quite grubby, in this location. On the Clonakilty road the grass verges were well maintained to one side of the road but rather overgrown on the other.

#### **General Impression:**

It was a pleasure to spend some time in the town of Bandon rather than hurrying past on the by pass. It has made steady progress over the last number of years and continues to perform well.