

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Bandon** Ref: **108**
County: **Cork (South)** Mark: **241**
Category: **E** Date(s): **11/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	39
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	18
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	32
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	241

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for completed entry form, the specifics of your four year work program, town maps together with the most colourful and comprehensive Bandon town map and guide. Bandon is blessed with the extent of splendid, traditional shop fronts and the involvement of many locations private and public in its overall presentation. Particularly note worthy in this context was the presentations of the secondary college and, at a different scale, the little 1871 church. At the absolute other end of the scale is the major Riverview Shopping Centre which was very well presented and new residential developments overlooking the Bandon River. The needs of your visitors, free car parking and toilet facilities was well signed posted, while the brave use of strong, vibrant colours on terraced houses at Castle Road and further out, the peaked moulding over windows was a very nice touch.

The Built Environment:

The elevated Catholic Church provides major visual impact from many viewing points. However inappropriately large signage just beneath the church jars somewhat with the overall view. The modern Garda Station looked very well as did the Howard Court Development which was well presented. Individual shops that caught the eye was Desmond Goldsmith, Brooks Pharmacy, ODM Financial and especially Neville's Solicitors. The Credit Union and Scanlon's Medical Hall with their original timber frontage also looked very well. The Riverview Veterinary Clinic was tidy and orderly while the large scale Flor Griffin and Paco Outlet were attractive and inviting. The Gaelscoil looked very pleasant as did Poachers Inn. The Westside Baptist Church in Old Chapel was a delight as was St. Peter's Church of Ireland.

Landscaping:

Clearly the River Bandon is your major asset and the walks alongside it are very inviting. The entrance and grounds to the Bandon Grammar School were excellent with a wide range of trees and shrubs. Perhaps you might consider naming some of the trees to add additional interest. The Bernard's Bridge (1823) planting was a very pleasant development, while the Bandon Rugby ground with the new club premises also attracted. The trees on South Main Street were very good and the extension to the riverside walk was inviting. The Immaculata Shrine while being reasonably well presented was well set off by the mowed and grassed areas just in front of it.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The erection of wildlife information panels is to be welcomed and locations might be sought for the development of a wildlife habitat. Clearly the river bank is significant in this connection and as well some area within the Bandon Grammar School. Consult with the wildlife officer of the Office of Public Works for ideas and suggestions.

Litter Control:

Litter management was for a sizeable centre at a satisfactory level. We welcome news of your organised, monthly clean ups on a Saturday and also your planned project to highlight awareness of the need for litter control. Obviously this is an ongoing, indeed never ending task and we applaud your continuing efforts. Litter bins although present could be added to in some locations particularly where there is extensive passing of pedestrian traffic.

Waste Minimisation:

The arrival of the new waste recovery facility in Clonakilty Road is to be welcomed and your intention to encourage its wider use is applauded. What is attended under waste management is as much an awareness campaign as the actual work on the ground. Accordingly your visits to school to encourage this practice are meritorious. Please use all devices, local paper, and church news-letters and even consider issuing a sponsored newsletter to help. In every way seek to inculcate the mindset of waste minimisation through reducing, reusing and recycling.

Tidiness:

The centre benefits from some well presented large industrial location, noticeably the gas company and car sales outlets which were very well done. Bandon Motors and TJ Crowley were outstanding in this regard. Some weeds were found at entrance gates to some buildings which detracts considerably from the overall impression. Sadly the GAA entrance area was to the fore in this regard. The Telecom headquarters needed some attention to reach its full potential. The car parking areas in general were good while on street parking created a cluttered view in some locations. The Cork Co. Op presentation of products outside their area needs some amending and the overall site could benefit from some attention.

Residential Areas:

Your decision to stage tidy estate competitions is to be applauded as these have been found to be very beneficial in many other centres. Woodfield Estate was very well presented with a number of houses offering excellent gardens which contributed to the overall high standard. Individual houses in the Bernard's Bridge area were likewise excellent. Canon Wood Estate is still in development but we welcomed the good incidental areas there being well presented. Houses in Chapel Street were large but were in need of some attention to accentuate their inherent attractiveness. The O'Mahony Avenue with access to its interior via the arch gates in Chapel Street was very well presented. The coordinated colours on Oliver Plunkett Street were a delight. Belfry Estate while individual houses were excellent there was a variation of standard here. The use of strong colours was very successful.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Kilbrittain Road entrance provided a clear cut indeed dramatic commencement to the town some of the signs on the approach roads were overgrown, while elsewhere hedgerows were appropriately cut back. The Skibbereen Road again had this tendency to permit encroaching vegetation growth to obscure some of the signs even significantly important directional signs.

General Impression:

The use of one way traffic systems is working well. You still have not rid yourselves of the extent of heavy goods vehicles continuing to use the town centre. Bandon continues to advance and secure additional marks which are a fair recompense for your ongoing commitment to improving the bustling town's presentation. It has a great deal to offer in terms of its facilities, the town layout and significant building. Your efforts to

accentuate these are applauded.