

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Bandon** Ref: **108**
County: **Cork(South)** Mark: **244**
Category: **E** Date(s): **28/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	39
The Built Environment	50	34
Landscaping	50	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	18
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	244

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your entry into this year's Tidy Towns Competition. Your entry was well planned, concise and very useful to the adjudicator on day of visit, thank you. The Bandon Town map and guide you included is a wonderful piece of work and was also very useful.

The Built Environment:

The churches are a very impressive part of the Bandon skyline and both St. Peter's and St. Patrick's building and grounds are real assets. The colourful shopfronts of Bandon are also a real feature of the town and even the newer ones mostly looked well at time of survey. In fact some of the better-planned new shopfronts are more worthy of praise for the contribution that they make to the streets. There were some great shop displays noted, too, with some businesses displaying their goods outside the premises very well. A mixture of new and old can be seen at the very effective development of The Shambles. The new development at Riverbank has been done quite sensitively and at least looks at the river when so many of Ireland's towns have previously turned their back to the rivers. The Methodist church is a lovely building and the ESB premises are well kept. By contrast, the Eircom building looked very poor. Is the tourist office permanently closed? The post office is a fine building and the Riverside Hall looks good. The Heritage Centre at Christchurch was unfortunately closed at time of visit. The Town Hall was being renovated at this time and the building opposite was admired. The library is attractive but the shopping centre here could be better painted.

Landscaping:

The Square at Emmet Row is very nice with mature trees, well kept with flowers around the monument here. The trees on the Cork Road are also an asset. The monument and shrine at the junction of Clan Road and Chapel Street are very well kept. The attention to detail in the landscaping of the approach roads was appreciated. The entrance to Bandon Grammar School is very nice.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The river is obviously the most valuable natural asset of the town and the riverside walk is a real addition to this. Is this to be continued, as your application suggests? The wildlife information board is good to see but this could be improved to better highlight the flora and fauna of the river. A lovely collection of wild flowers and birds including various umbellifers and grey wagtails were seen in the stream at the bridge. Make sure that no herbicides are used near water and that riversides are not kept too 'tidy' of wild plants. The ferns and other wild plants such as valerian on the walls are lovely. The islands in the river are great for all types of wildlife from fowl to fish, as well as the plants that will develop here over time.

Litter Control:

Some litter was noted on day of visit. There appears to be a problem with chewing gum in areas such as Bridge Street. There was an abandoned beer keg in the stream close to a pub from where it was probably lost. Many cigarette butts and an overfull bin was found by the side entrance of the Spar.

Waste Minimisation:

Please note that waste minimisation is not just about litter or recycling. I would suggest working with the schools and businesses on this part of the project and seeking help from the local authority environmental awareness officer.

Tidiness:

Your application notes that under-grounding of cables is underway. This is to be welcomed. The new footpaths on Cork Road are very good. There is one derelict petrol station on this road and it is an eyesore. There were many projects being worked on at time of survey and this can lead to some disruption. At least one car park was disused because of this. Some graffiti were noted near the playground. The garages and other businesses on the Clonakilty Road were very well kept. The Gaelscoil and associated playing fields could be brightened up in time.

Residential Areas:

Although some houses were in need of some minor attention such as a little painting, most of the dwellings in and around the town centre were in good condition. Some dereliction was noted. The housing estates were generally very well presented and your participation in Tidy estates Competitions has paid off.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Farmers' Market was setting up as the adjudication began and added a very active and colourful aspect between the main streets and the church. Traffic does seem to be a problem and a scheme of Pedestrianisation might be of advantage to many. The new footpaths are a real plus and will be of benefit to pedestrian tourists as well as local shoppers. The dereliction on North Main Street detracts a little from some of the fine buildings and streetscape in this part of town. Generally speaking, the back areas and smaller streets were well-kept and clutter-free. Oliver Plunkett Street was generally in good order apart from some cigarette butts here and there. The Market place is very nice but the corner of Pearse Street and Bridge Lane was unfortunately quite littered.

General Impression:

The overall impression of Bandon is of a very busy, bustling and improving town. To date, new development has been fitted in well with some of the older homes and businesses. It is hoped that this will continue. More attention should be paid to the natural heritage of the town and thought given to providing more habitats within the built environment.