

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Bandon** Ref: **108**
County: **Cork(South)** Mark: **262**
Category: **E** Date(s): **22/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	40
The Built Environment	50	36
Landscaping	50	40
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	12
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	262

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the filled up entry form and the four year work plan. I got your note of apology for not including a map. I was impressed to learn that your plants are sourced at St Patrick's Brothers of Charity and I actually saw some of their men carrying shrubs in their hands near the Catholic Church. I read your letter to the GAA and the business people and it is only right that you get support with your efforts. I note you have twenty members in your committee and great enthusiasm is evident when so many people give up some of their spare time to help out on Tuesday evenings from April to October and to give assistance with planting and painting etc. Your contact with the schools is worthwhile and it is good to see an involvement from the children in the spring clean up. We are pleased to see that you find the competition fosters community spirit to clean up the town and have a pride of place attitude. There are plenty social occasions in Bandon which are helpful to get people to interact with others from different organisations and clubs. All of this means you have a very good overall development approach.

The Built Environment:

The town has developed in a very well planned way with new modern businesses blending in very well with the old town structures. The Catholic Church, Church of Ireland and the Methodist are visually striking, each with their own distinctive flavour, and the three are most picturesque with very attractive steps up to them and are wonderfully landscaped. Well done to all concerned with the upkeep of these churches. There is a most impressive array of busy shops in South Main Street that are very well presented and the Credit Union was supreme. Some trees, mainly copper beech, reduce the visual impact of some of the buildings, and I felt there could be some more trees planted there. Weir Street, Market Street and Bridge Street are well developed and link on nicely to South Main Street. But the other streets are also well presented with good business houses with some attractive colour schemes. The Presentation Primary school had the green flag stood proudly outside it. I admired the spacious GAA pavilion. There are some great old traditional water pumps in the town

which are a reminder of bygone days.

Landscaping:

Numerous mature trees and traditional stone walls are a permanent landscape feature of Bandon, and the wonderful shows of the tidy towns committee and individual house owners give a fresh and attractive appearance to the town. Great landscaping was admired by the churches steps, opposite Jack's restaurant, at the fountain and especially at the bridge near the statue of Sean Hales. The small stone, trough like, containers of flowers are beautiful. Some memorials and statues were admired notably Sean Hales, John C Lordan, the 1916 memorial erected in 1953 and the statue in remembrance to The Irish Patriot. Well done for the provision of five community gardens. It is very interesting to learn that new soil from the recycling depot was used in all the flower beds and they certainly look all the better for this.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

It is wonderful to see from the bridge a large amount of fish in the river and this tells us that the river is not polluted. I enjoyed the notice board near Sean Hales statue. Work on the river walk was in progress and the children's playground is great and it was wonderful to see lots of children out enjoying themselves in the fresh air, and well done to all concerned with this playground. I enjoyed the sight of a group of ducks swimming along merrily.

Litter Control:

It was obvious that careful attention is paid to litter in Bandon with lots of well serviced litter bins everywhere in the town which was almost completely free of litter especially in the town centre. The national problems of chewing gum residue and cigarette ends were evident in some places, but it was noticeable that some publicans were vigilant outside their premises to keep them free of litter.

Waste Minimisation:

I inspected the impressive recycling depot out the Clonakilty road and it was busy when I called with materials being segregated into the different bins. With the green flag status in the school the people of Bandon are now involved in best practice treatment of waste. However, I wondered how town's people managed with their bottles etc when they do not have transport of their own to get out to the depot. But undoubtedly the new depot is a great facility.

Tidiness:

There was a good performance on tidiness around the town. South Main Street and the adjoining streets looked excellent with the service cables hidden underground. A rusty galvanised roof in a car park was unsightly and there are some derelict houses mainly at the bridge near Bridewell Court, another looking down towards BE JEWEL and one in North Main Street. There is not a lot you can do about such private property, but the owners do have a responsibility to keep their houses in an orderly fashion.

Residential Areas:

The traditional town houses are very picturesque, and mostly well kept. There are some wonderful private houses around the town that displayed great landscaping, flowers, shrubs and trees. The housing estates are well maintained and some of the newer ones had magnificent landscaping.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The back areas of the town are well developed and Harte's car park and the car park at the back of the Post Office are good examples of this. I admired the sculpture on the Cork road at the roundabout. The lower road out of town past the memorial and the road up to the community hospital are in poor condition and in need of attention. The attractive signposts for Bandon are adorned with lovely flowers. The approach road from Clonakilty is superbly landscaped and the feature of the birds and the splendid shrine add a touch of class to their locations. The other approach roads have an attractive and well kept appearance.

General Impression:

I thoroughly enjoyed my few hours in Bandon, and I found that this town has improved considerably since my last visit about twelve years ago. I could see the "footprints" of an imaginative and enthusiastic people in many parts of the town and especially in the great landscaping. Well done.