

# Tidy Towns Competition 2011

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Bandon** Ref: **108**  
County: **Cork(South)** Mark: **275**  
Category: **E** Date(s): **06/07/2011**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2010</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2011</b>
Overall Development Approach	50	41	40
The Built Environment	50	37	38
Landscaping	50	41	42
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	22	23
Litter Control	50	32	31
Waste Minimisation	20	12	12
Tidiness	30	19	19
Residential Areas	40	30	31
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30	31
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>275</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Your adjudicator would like to welcome Bandon to the 2011 TidyTowns Competition. Thank you for your completed entry forms as both the Word version and the brochure version were received. Unfortunately the map supplied was of little assistance to your adjudicator. The scale of this was extremely small and did not mark all roads and streets. None of the locations for your projects carried for this year's adjudication were marked. For a town the size of Bandon a map that is about the size of one or two A4 sheets of paper is probably about right. With a poor map it is difficult for an adjudicator to give correct street and road names and it may not be possible to find all project locations efficiently. Thank you for the four year TidyTowns Plans that lists many interesting projects. It is suggested that you use the ten adjudication categories as a framework and identify projects targeted by category by year. Have you considered expanding your publicity measures to include group text messages, email and Facebook? Your large committee seems to enjoy a good level of local support for your work for Bandon.

### The Built Environment:

The welcome repainting of the Eircom building on the Cork approach was welcomed and visited as was the commencement of the Church refurbishment on St Patrick's Quay. The new Multi Use Games facility is a great local facility. The action taken by the Local Authority in respect of derelict property is especially commended. The derelict garage on the Clonakilty Road does not favourably impress the first time visitor. Have you considered temporary timber screening here? Is the Mart still in use? This was visited and the area is extremely bleak; just a little repainting here would make a big difference. Nearby, very large open spaces were quite untidy and weed growth needed attention. The use of the Irish language on signage is required under present legislation and this should be encouraged where appropriate. On signage the Irish language must have the primary role. The restored building at Charles Crowley & Co was greatly admired. Great care and attention has been given to detailing here and the window boxes are appropriate. Bandon has many

buildings both of heritage interest and more recent times. The Matson's Wine Store was a modern property that caught the eye and for different also positive reasons the AIB brick building stood out in the streetscape. Nearby the Credit Union building also make a commanding statement. The restored Shambles area is a great success and the internal stone archways were admired. The tiered frontage to the Church of Ireland buildings works well and good presentation was observed here. On the Macroom Road the manicured roadside lawn at St Brogan's College attracted your adjudicator. At the Farm Store two quite large old buildings, perhaps old Mills were visited and it is great to see that at least one of them has found a new productive use. The Shrine on Chapel Street was adequately presented.

### **Landscaping:**

New tree planting was admired at various locations and do continue to keep in mind the importance of planting native trees. Throughout Bandon colourful window boxes, hanging baskets and flower tubs enlighten the streetscape. This includes the enlarged planting at the Shambles. Major planting of bulbs on the Cork approach road is also acknowledged favourably. In your future planting plans do consider the issue of planting for year round colour and texture. This will also help to reduce maintenance requirements. Thank you for the plan for the Community Garden which seemed quite appealing. We look forward to progress on this in the year ahead. At Allen Square and the monument across the road excellent landscaping was visited. Another area that stood out was at the wildlife information panel at St Finbar Place. Your adjudicator reminds all Tidy Towns Committees that the cutting of roadside banks and ditches in the period 1st March to 30th August is not permitted under Section 40 of the Wildlife Act 1976, incorporating section 46 of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000.

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

Well done on the completion of the quite attractive amenity walk area behind Kelleher's – a great addition to Bandon. In the planned Community Garden / Park do make sure that all planting reflects the needs of wildlife. Native trees and shrubs will be especially important in this regard. Wildlife information on the Bandon river area was noted with interest.

### **Litter Control:**

Unfortunately litter control in Bandon on the day of the visit was not uniformly good. Litter Control in the town centre was acceptable but outside of that quite a number of littered areas were visited. These included the small Funeral Home car park, the car park on South Main Street, the bottom of Newcestown Road, Convent Hill which was very bad, Clonakilty end of the Inner Relief Road, and at the entrance to Birchdale. Much litter was seen on the very narrow one way road to Castledon Mews. However your genuine efforts on litter control are understood and acknowledged including the role of the Schools in Spring Clean Week and your work with the anti-litter unit of Cork County Council.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

The projects that you mentioned here were not of priority concern in respect of this adjudication category. It is suggested that you talk with the waste minimisation officer in Cork County Council about a waste audit for Bandon. They should be able to give you guidance. Your key focus here should be on reducing the quantities of waste produced in Bandon each year. A audit may help to establish a baseline against which progress can be measured. You did not mention progress that Bandon may be making in the Green Schools Programme.

### **Tidiness:**

The new signage ban that is being enforced by the Local Authority is welcomed and the co-operation of Merck Schering Plough in your clean-up programme is warmly commended. In the Ballylangley area quite untidy roadside advertising signage was evident. Beside the Deck & Fence Centre an old building needed to be screened from public view. A very large untidy green area was visited near the Church on Chapel Street. Quite a number of small incidental tidy areas were noted in Bandon. Simple projects such as painting sign poles can make a big difference. Your continued attention to black spots is necessary and they might be targeted in a systematic and logical way.

### **Residential Areas:**

Thornfields was visited and work on the entrance area was examined. Effective use has been made here in landscaping terms of a steeply sloping site. Along Kilbrogan many period houses were admired and especially the attractively painted ones near the top of the hill. Rosewood has an attractive open feel and good private hanging baskets caught the eye here together with the well presented green area. Young trees at Birchdale were seen to be maturing well. Driving north down Deer Park Close some attractive estates were seen. At the unfinished Oaklawn/Castleoaks a large open space on the right inside the entrance would be better if screened. Along Castle Road some very attractive older stone houses of great character were admired while along Upper O'Mahony Avenue more mature properties and gardens stood out.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

New planting on Kilbrogan Hill was admired and also on Main Street and near the Town Hall area. The Cork Road creates a favourable first impression of Bandon and the modern commercial buildings along this approach fit in reasonably well. Some indeed were well landscaped. Some very poor road surfaces were noted on parts of South Main Street. The tree lined Dunmanway approach to Bandon is complimented by old stone walling on one side while banks needed to be trimmed on the Newcestown approach.

**General Impression:**

Do try and improve the mapping situation for your adjudicator next year. It is also important to try and expand your activity area even further outside of the core town area. This is not easy with such a large town. Good luck in the year ahead and we will be back again next summer.