

# Tidy Towns Competition 2012

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Bandon** Ref: **108**  
County: **Cork(South)** Mark: **278**  
Category: **E** Date(s): **10/06/2012**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2011</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2012</b>
Overall Development Approach	50	40	40
The Built Environment	50	38	38
Landscaping	50	42	44
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	23	23
Litter Control	50	31	31
Tidiness	30	19	20
Waste Minimisation	20	12	12
Residential Areas	40	31	31
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31	31
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>278</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Bandon is welcome to the 2012 TidyTowns Competition. Thank you for your submission which was helpful to the adjudicator. The town has some very handsome features, not least of which are its recent bronze and stone sculpture pieces, which are most attractive. There are many visually appealing elements to Bandon and your adjudicator found the town layout, with its narrow lanes and side streets, quite intriguing. Organising people into sub-groups is effective when faced with a variety of tasks. The sight of up to 200 people out on the road at 6am on an April morning must have been very unusual! It is noted that work continues to be ongoing in the town and at the time of adjudication this was the case at the Riverview shopping complex. We wish you well with your application for 'Walled town' status

### The Built Environment:

The built environment of Bandon town is characterised by handsome three storey buildings along South Main Street and many continue to feature their sash windows and other traditional features. Most business premises are nicely presented and Mathsones Wine Store was particularly admired, as was the Credit Union and adjoining premises. St. Peter's Church looked quite magnificent in its location overlooking the town and it was good to note that its grounds and boundary railings enjoyed good maintenance also. The Co-Op premises looked reasonably well. It was a pleasure to note the almost total absence of inappropriate signage on business premises. The difficulty posed by dereliction is appreciated and your efforts are noted.

### Landscaping:

Congratulations on the development of the Community Garden this will serve the needs of the population well; it is good to have a choice of whether to sit and listen to the sounds of nature or 'work out' on the fitness equipment; the proposed Skate Board Park will add yet another dimension! One of Bandon's nicest features

is its numerous incidental amenity areas around town which are far too numerous to identify individually. Allen Square was admired for its landscaping however one large exotic plant appeared to be irreversibly damaged so perhaps this could be removed. Sean Hale Place was beautifully landscaped also and the water wheel amenity feature at Old Chapel is a nice touch. Keep in mind the desirability of planting native plants where possible in order to enhance biodiversity.

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

MacSwiney Quay enjoys an excellent standard of presentation with its attractive street furniture and enhances the riverside in this section of Bandon. All sections of river seen by the adjudicator were free of dumped material and those who did the work for Bandon are to be thanked. The children's playground near Riverview was noted for its standard of maintenance. The Bandon Town Park, together with the AFC football ground and Bandon College, enjoy an excellent presentation to their roadside edge. The Community Garden located on the Cork entrance to the town, was being enjoyed by many including your adjudicator. The proposed booklet on Bandon's wildlife being prepared by the youth of the town together with proposed wildlife signage is an exciting initiative and eagerly anticipated.

#### **Litter Control:**

Apart from some incidental litter on MacSwiney Quay, litter control in Bandon was excellent; all who participated in the National Spring Clean are to be thanked. The town is indebted to The Brownies, Girl Guides Youth Reach and the Rosminian Centre for their excellent contribution to litter control in Bandon. ensure that collected litter is segregated for recycling.

#### **Tidiness:**

Planting to the roadside edge of the derelict garage located beside the bus station successfully ameliorated the negative visual impact here. Other derelict properties however were less well presented in particular on St. Patrick's Hill and another at the Old Chapel junction; derelict walls and remains at the end of South Main Street are visually problematic also. An undeveloped site on the Clonakilty Road was noted; we appreciate the efforts of the committee in dealing with this difficult problem. The council's ban on signage is noted; try to avoid outsized advertisement hoardings a number of these were noted around the town, notably on the Bridewell Bar, another on the DeBarra premises and a third on O'Donovan's Off Licence. It was good to note the almost wirescape free aspect of South Main Street. Watergreen Street looked quite bad in this respect.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

Well done to the Presentation School on the Dunmanway entrance to Bandon on acquiring their fourth Green Flag, this really is a grand achievement; we wish the other schools success in their participation in the Green Schools initiative. The Awareness Day on Waste Minimisation with emphasis on water capture is applauded; a focus should now be placed on prevention of waste at source in addition to ongoing recycling. Has participation in the Green Homes initiative been considered?

#### **Residential Areas:**

A terrace of three storey dwellings along St. Patrick's Quay was admired, some terraces near St. Peter's were in need of cleaning and/or painting; period town houses throughout Bandon were generally to a high standard. Housing estates were presented to a good standard generally and of note was the Thornfield estate together with Radharc an Bhaile. A number of poorly presented boundary walls on entering the town centre from the Clonakilty Road were problematic in visual amenity terms. One period house located at the top of North Main Street was admired for the standard of refurbishment. It is good to note the establishment of residents groups to take responsibility for their own areas. The Riverside apartments looked reasonably well.

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

Both the bronze and stone sculpture on the roundabout on the N71 was admired together with the wild swan sculpture located near the Poachers Inn. Road and footpath surfaces at the entrance to Bandon from the Clonakilty Road were generally good and grass verges, together with maturing and young trees are a nice feature also. The standard of footpath and road surfaces was good on the entrance from the Dunmanway and Macroom Roads also. It was good to note that all streets in Bandon feature nameplates. Cognisance has been taken of your plans for traffic management at the Riverview shopping complex.

#### **General Impression:**

Bandon town is an attractive destination, however your adjudicator feels that more could be achieved in giving visitors to the town more effective road directions as it was difficult to negotiate the streets and to get around the town generally. The 'Age Friendly' initiative is interesting; your adjudicator looks forward to returning to Bandon.

