

Tidy Towns Competition 2013

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Bandon** Ref: **108**
County: **Cork(South)** Mark: **281**
Category: **E** Date(s): **01/07/2013**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2012	Mark Awarded 2013
Overall Development Approach	50	40	41
The Built Environment	50	38	38
Landscaping	50	44	44
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	23	23
Litter Control	50	31	31
Sustainable Waste And Resource Management	20	12	12
Tidiness	30	20	20
Residential Areas	40	31	32
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31	33
General Impression	10	8	7
TOTAL MARK	400	278	281

Overall Development Approach:

Bandon is welcome to the 2013 Tidy Towns competition. Thank you for your application, photos and 1-page three year Work Programme (2013 – 2015). The map was difficult to follow. Is there any street map of Bandon that you could use as a basis for highlighting your current work? You have an active committee of 15 members. Do you have additional volunteers to call on as required for specific tasks? You have good links with Cork Co Co, Bandon County Council, FAS and West Cork Partnership here. You are engaging locally with schools and clubs. What about support from local businesses?

The Built Environment:

The Walled Town festival is a great way to promote this historical feature. Some buildings that caught the eye included Bandon Laundries, Charles Crowley Chartered Accountants, Horgan's Pharmacy, Neville & Co Solicitors, Chapel Steps Restaurant, O' Hara's pub, Head 2 Toe, Margaret's An Siopa Bearboir, Brady's, Plunkett's, La Modeste, O' Donnabhain's. The stained glass canopy at the Munster Arms Hotel was admired. Perhaps it could be cleaned soon? DN Michael Galvin looks neat and fresh. Both churches have imposing hillside locations with impressive grounds. Ballymodan Medical centre was admired as were the nearby Arches. The 'Bandon High Level passenger station'. sign at the attractive County Council offices was read with interest. The Court House could do with a facelift and attention is needed to weed control and debris near the entrance. On the other hand the Town Council offices are one of the town's highlights. You have some fine architectural detail on many of your buildings, some just waiting to be shown off in a good light again. The Allen Institute is a fine building of architectural heritage, however it does need maintenance. The Old Market sign and door were admired. There are a lot of items outside Kelleher's but the building itself is neatly presented. Well done for approaching owners of your derelict buildings. Please give us more specific progress on this next time. Are you engaging with Bandon Town Council on this issue also? The playground and mural was admired – the railings on the nearby ramp could be painted.

Landscaping:

The Clonakilty approach road is impressive with good use of landscaping and well maintained grass verges. Well done for all your recent work carried out here and for planting native where possible. Please submit a photo of your spring bulbs next year. The area around the Poacher's Inn was admired. There is a nice mix of colourful planting beside and in front of the County Council offices. Sean Hayes place is nicely landscaped with good

quality seating. Just keep an eye on weed control. St Patrick's Place has attractive seats and planters as well as an old water pump. Landscaping at the R.C. church grounds was admired as was the flower bed at the entrance to the COI.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The linear park is a lovely riverside amenity that is beautifully maintained. Is there a name sign for this park? The outdoor gym is a great addition and benches are in good order. The 'Bandon River Birdlife' sign was noted. You have some lovely walks and trails throughout the town, some close to the river. Could you incorporate a Sli na Slainte or nature trail to open up these areas more while at the same time raising awareness of local wildlife? We don't get a sense of these different areas being integrated. We were delighted to see a heron on the river. Who writes the monthly wildlife articles for the Bandon Opinion? Would they like to volunteer?! The main thrust of this category is to identify what wildlife is in the community, and then determine how to protect it and raise awareness of it. How are you doing this or planning to do this? You don't refer to this category in your 3 year plan. Some schools are working on their 'biodiversity' theme as part of their green schools programme. In this case, working in conjunction with the local school would be of enormous benefit. Do you any wildlife enthusiast in Bandon who could help you progress in this category? Have any surveys been carried out on the river or in other areas? The walkway from the linear park to town was enjoyed despite the litter. Be mindful of excessive use of weedkiller, particularly on your river walks. It looks unsightly and can impact wildlife.

Litter Control:

Well done for carrying out a cleanup of your river/walk in conjunction with the Bandon Anglers Association. Well done also to the schools and clubs that participate in litter picks. We observed the dog bins on the Quay walk. Are you running an awareness campaign in conjunction with this project? Please provide evidence of any awareness raising initiatives as it is an important element of this category. Litter is an issue and there were pockets of it throughout the town. How do you engage with residential areas regarding litter management? Do you segregate clean-up materials for recycling?

Sustainable Waste And Resource Management:

Please provide more detail as to the status of each school in relation to the Green Schools programme. The main thrust of this category is how we can help reduce waste in the community by preventing it, then how we can reuse and recycle the rest. Please have a look at the new guidelines where you should get one or two ideas to implement for next year. As a minimum you should state here the status of each of your schools in relation to the Green Flag. Do they have a green flags and what stage are they at? There are very close links between this programme and some Tidy Towns categories so you can help each other. You should also mention any water or energy saving measures, e.g. for watering plants/flowers during summer season. Does the school run any walk/cycle to school promotions as part of their green schools programme? This cuts down on your carbon footprint and your traffic! Have any home composting or waste prevention workshops been hosted in Bandon recently?

Tidiness:

There are many tidiness issues that should be tackled. Broking lanterns outside the County Council offices are in need of repair. The paint is peeling off the post office railings. I would recommend you do an audit of all your signage and determine what needs to be cleaned or repaired. Many would benefit from a simple cleaning. Also look out for fraying flags/bunting, wire clutter and obsolete signage, all of which come under this category. The pretty 'thatched' garden centre was admired; however the fence detracts from the overall appearance.

Residential Areas:

Riverside Hall in the converted church was admired. St. Patrick's hill contains a neat terrace of colourful houses apart from the first derelict house. This requires action as it is highly visible from the roadside. Further along this street is a neat mix of residential and commercial premises. The Devonshire Apartment complex looks well. Estates were generally well presented. Do any or all of these developments have residents associations? Are you trying to move towards getting each development to be responsible for their own areas? It is worth offering support to any estate wishing to set up a residents association. Please tell us more on how you engage with residents groups?

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Inishannon approach is disappointing and gives a poor first impression. Your boundaries are poorly defined here. You should consider moving your name signs further out to reflect the built up roads inside your speed limit signs. There is a proliferation of signs and the verges are somewhat untidy. On the town side of the roundabout, the appearance is much improved. The Clonakilty approach is more impressive with well maintained grass verges, attractive landscaping and minimum signage. Well done for rescuing the footpath here. Street names are needed in some places. You should embrace your laneways and give them name plates also. Good Visitor Information signage was observed throughout the town. St. Patrick's Quay car park is very well presented. The timber hoardings lining the back laneway to Supervalu are unsightly and require urgent action. Surfacing is poor at the car park opposite Kelleher's, which otherwise has been enhanced with bedding plants. You have lovely old water pumps. You might consider sticking to one colour scheme when painting them. The footbridge enhances this area.

General Impression:

Bandon is a bustling riverside town that has seen many changes in recent years. Tackling dereliction and litter are two key challenges but you are on the right track. It might be worth seeking residents of your community interested in helping with specific tasks such as wildlife or waste prevention. Not everybody is able to attend meetings/do litter picks. Try and find out what skills are resources are in your community. You may be pleasantly surprised! Thank you for your efforts and we wish you well with future projects.