

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **KANTURK**  
County : **CORK**  
Category : **C**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 03-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	23
The Built Environment	40	24	21
Landscaping	40	25	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	12
Litter Control	40	15	10
Tidiness	20	11	10
Residential Areas	30	16	15
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	22
General Impression	10	7	5
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>140</b>

## **Kanturk, Co. Cork**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

This adjudicator had not visited Kanturk for 5 or 6 years and was immediately taken by the enormous change for the better - which may not seem so extensive to those who are permanently involved. Congratulations on a sustained effort. There are two specific areas which are particularly impressive; the smart urban layout of Strand Street and the delightful riverine precinct of the Town Park: these are very substantial indeed. Plans for the future are also impressive: it might be to the Committee's advantage to draw up a 3/5 year plan, identifying objectives and scheduling completion dates for specific years, rather than attempting everything all at once.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The Church, as usual, was well maintained. The Credit Union rehabilitation of the old Market House is, in all senses, a credit to the town. The streetscape prospect on arriving in town from Banteer is dignified and colourful. Among the fine shop frontages noted this year were Central Stores and SuperValu. It was good to see the Co-Op, Duhallow Knitwear and Keating's presenting such a good face to the world - not often the way with industrial buildings. An unpleasing derelict site near Duhallow Knitwear is conspicuous. The unique Gothic gateway with carved limestone pillars near the church needs repair - perhaps some group would take it on as a special project, to dedicate to the memory of a famous Kanturk figure or event?

### **LANDSCAPING**

The picnic grounds on the Banteer road were well maintained, as were the immediate precincts of Kanturk Castle. The Town Park is a beautifully tended amenity - the developmental work in progress cannot really be evaluated until completed; it would be unfair to enter it for the Landscaping Award now as it will have a much better chance next year. The proposed riverbank amenity near Greenane is an ideal site; the 700 new trees could not be seen here: please be sure to mark such achievements on your map, and also to differentiate in your notes between what has been achieved and what is a proposal. The landscaping and pavement re-laying at Egmont St./O'Brien Place was also uncompleted, and will make a huge improvement. Tree Planting was very favourably noted here. A further increase in marks under this heading could be achieved next year if these projects mature as expected.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Not a great deal seems to have been achieved under this heading. You might like to refer to the suggestions in the Tidy Towns booklet, or to take advice from the sheet from Conservation Volunteers Ireland.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

In spite of adequate bins, there was considerable litter in Percival Street on adjudication day. There was also litter along the fencing of the Car Park at the back of SuperValu, and minor outbreaks elsewhere. Although this is undesirable, it was not a major discrepancy.

## **TIDINESS**

There seemed to be an improved awareness under this heading, judging by last year's report. There remain a number of unkept entrances, particularly in the Bluepool Upper area (off Strand Street); and a very noticeable one on the right as you come from Banteer. The un-named housing estate near Greenane (please name estates on your map) has an unusually untidy entrance: this kind of thing needs to be watched out for.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Housing on the hilltop estate above the grotto is well kept; good to see tree-planting here. An un-named new estate off the Boherbue road has particularly well painted houses, though the grassed areas were not well kept. Housing areas at St. Patrick's Place and St. Joseph's Place were also favourably noted. Many pleasant homes with private gardens were seen on the outskirts. Cottages with 'old-fashioned' gardens, such as at Greenane and Bluepool Upper, were much admired. Kanturk is strong on well-painted cottages in side streets, which give a strong sense of character to the town.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

Excellent street surface, furniture and paving in Strand Street. Otherwise, surfacing ranges from good to poor. Car parks at the church, hospital and behind SuperValu were all well surfaced, though bleak: perimeter tree-planting would help in all cases, as would an improved boundary (stone wall, strong wood fence or hedge) at the latter instead of post-and-wire. Stone walls, old and new, are very good throughout. The approaches from Newmarket, Buttevant, Charleville and Banteer are well looked after. (There is one short stretch which is quite unpleasant on the latter, between the Castle and the 30MPH sign, with weeds, broken gate and walls: marks have not been deducted as it is outside the Tidy Towns Competition area, but it does give a poor initial impression).

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

There is a sense of many improving hands at work, and that the next year or two will show remarkable steps forward.