

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **BANTRY**  
County : **CORK**  
Category : **D**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 07-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	44	42
The Built Environment	40	31	30
Landscaping	40	33	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	22
Litter Control	40	28	28
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>225</b>

## **Bantry, Co. Cork**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

The adjudicator would like to thank you for your most comprehensive Action Plan. This is a really excellent document and is exactly what every Tidy Towns Committee in the country should prepare. It is a realistic plan which acknowledges difficulties as well as achievements to date. In this document you have given a clear indication of the goals of your Committee for future years. Next year can you try and let your adjudicator have a large scale town centre map on which you might mark special areas that you wish the adjudicator to see. The photographs were most useful. It is encouraging to see that your Committee has involved so many local organisations in your Tidy Towns work. The County Council and Bantry Town Commissioners have obviously been extremely helpful.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The built environment in Bantry town is a most interesting one, and the presentation of many of the buildings in the town has improved significantly in the past few years. The Town Square development is outstanding in every way. It provides a heart for the centre of the town and is a most important social gathering place for the people of Bantry. On adjudication day the street market was in progress. This gave a very good atmosphere to the town centre, and helped to integrate the surrounding areas with the town itself. The new Wolfe Tone Statue is an outstanding piece of sculpture and it is so very right that this figure be remembered in the town of Bantry. The restoration works at the Pond area were noted as was the work in progress on the East Lodge of Bantry House. Well done on your work to date on derelict sites and the Forge in particular. Your plans for Keohanes are also noted. The Marino Street proposals sound very interesting and it is hoped that you will achieve in full your aims for this area. The West Lodge Hotel and grounds were excellently presented and the landscaping has reached a high level of maturity here. In the centre of the town the Bantry Bay Hotel was undergoing a major re-painting programme and the results are extremely good. In High Street some buildings are in need of painting. At the Railway Pier the railings should be painted and the rusty container unit removed or suitably screened. The nearby Lifeboat Station was excellently presented. At the bottom of the Glengarriff Road some houses were noted that are in need of re-plastering or re-painting or both. At Wolfe Tone Park painting is necessary at the entrance area, and the concrete wall inside the entrance on the right hand side needs to be painted white. Bantry Hospital uses a strong colour externally and this is effective. The Post office is another public building which pleased. Bantry demonstrates an extremely good use of bright brave colours. A good example

is the building at the junction of High Street and New Street. The Super Valu premises demonstrates how low key advertising of appropriate scale can be very effective. The Library building was well presented but a lot of litter was noted in the stream near the entrance steps.

## **LANDSCAPING**

The new shrubs in the Pond Lodge area were noted. The total landscaping approach in this area is really outstanding and is an example of how good landscaping on a large scale should be done. There are also important wildlife benefits incorporated into this scheme. The adjudicator is delighted to learn that you have planted a number of Oak trees. This is an excellent environmental investment in the next generation who will enjoy these trees when mature. Bantry makes extensive use of hanging baskets and tubs and they add a lot of colour to the town. However do make sure that this is not overdone in the future.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The Pond Lodge development with the island now used by wildfowl is really excellent. The walk from the town centre out past the entrance to Bantry House is an excellent local amenity and the work on public lighting in this area is a good development. The beach feasibility study is an excellent undertaking and the adjudicator looks forward to seeing a copy of this in the future. The use of native trees as part of your planting programme is welcomed. Your plans for an educational nature trail are to be encouraged and hopefully you will have this up and running in 2001. The Aquatics and Bantry Bay sign at the slipway opposite The Pond is most interesting and this sort of public information display is welcomed.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Your close links with the Schools in Bantry is very worthwhile, and the provision of additional litter bins near Schools is a good development. Litter was noted in small quantities on the Ballydehob approach road, in New Street and in the Car Park off the road to Railway Pier. At the Speed Limit signs on the Glengarriff approach road, litter was again observed. The Playground area here has also attracted some littering. The presence of a lot of litter in the stream at the Library has been highlighted elsewhere in this Report. Try and resolve this difficulty for next year.

## **TIDINESS**

The problems of derelict property have been noted above and also by your Committee in your Action Plan. Good progress has been made in the past two years. There is still a large number of projecting shop signs in Bantry. Approximately ten

were noted in one part of Barrack Street and about fourteen on one side of New Street alone.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Your local residents Competition is a really good idea. Generally private houses and gardens in Bantry are very well presented, and this applied to relatively new property and older premises. The residential housing development at the junction to Dunmanway has matured very well. On the Glengarriff approach many excellent private properties were noted with a high level of landscaping. At Slip Park the central grassed open area needs attention. Attractive older housing was noted on Church Road. Near the Beacon Hill development attractive cottage style semi-detached houses fit well into the area. At Beacon Hill itself good stone-work was noted at the entrance but the rusty railing along the top of the wall on the left hand side needs painting. Overall a good standard is being maintained under this heading in the Competition.

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

The plans to underground ESB cables is an excellent one and will make a great difference to the town when completed. The clean up at the inner Dock was an excellent initiative. On the Ballydehob approach the long grass on top of the stone walls should be removed, and part of the wall in this area has collapsed. The Glengarriff approach was well presented and the road to Railway Pier was also well maintained. On the Dunmanway approach road, long grass needs to be cut especially on the right hand side. Much work needs to be done on the route into town from Vaughan's Pass, where banks are badly overgrown. Bantry has some very attractive old narrow streets, for example Blackrock Road and Blackrock Lane.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Your Committee aided by many Agencies and the people of Bantry have made excellent progress in the Competition, and it was a pleasure to have the opportunity to examine your town in detail.

## **SECOND ADJUDICATION (08/08/00)**

The abundance of advertising hoardings on the Glengarriff Road should be discouraged. The entrance to the GAA grounds on this road could be to a higher standard – the plinth to the railings was in bad condition, as were the gates and pillar. A number of buildings on Marino Street looked unfortunate. However, this end of the town has improved in its presentation since last year's competition. Wolfe Tone Square looked as well as ever, although the Anchor Bar, close to this location should repaint their signage at the gable. A

shabby premises on High Street created a bad impression and the boundary wall to the graveyard was quite grubby and stained. However, the Post Office, toy shop and modern library had all been freshly painted. The rusty tin roof to a shed near the junction with High Street on Bridge Street should be painted up before next year's competition. Litter control could have been better on the day, the odd paper was in evidence along the streets of the town.