

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 07-08-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	45	44
The Built Environment	40	32	31
Landscaping	40	34	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	23
Litter Control	40	25	28
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	233	231

Bantry, Co. Cork

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Many thanks for your very comprehensive submission including supporting documents outlining your aims, the town history and your work in conjunction with the local statutory bodies. Your work with local businesses in relation to the maintenance of their premises is obviously paying off, as these were maintained to a high standard on the day. Your encouragement of the use of bi-lingual signage is also to be highly commended.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Both public and commercial buildings of the town looked well on adjudication day. The West Lodge Hotel sported some very attractive landscaping. The public lavatories were quite fresh, and the library was extremely fresh. The Catholic Church with magnificent planting looked well leading up from its stone steps. However, its gates were quite rusty. The retaining wall to the secondary school beyond was very fresh. The Post Office and GW Biggs looked very smart, as did James Lyons with its original windows and attractive window boxes at first floor level and the Bantry Bay Hotel. The Church of Ireland on the square looked quite charming. One or two on the main streets of the town were not maintained to the same high standard such as those buildings forming the Anchor Tavern and Discount World which looked extremely shabby. The buildings on the Glengarriff side of the town looked quite sad and neglected in comparison to those on the main streets. The graveyard wall appeared quite grubby and should be painted up before next year's competition. Do discourage the use of curved canopies and encourage shopkeepers to replace them with awnings of a more traditional fabric variety.

LANDSCAPING

The new island and its surrounding areas as one enters the Cork Road were well maintained and the planting on the bend further in this road was also admired. Commercial premises such as the builders' providers with their jaunty snapdragons also contributed to this aspect of the competition. Attractive planting close to the hospital with its lupins was admired. Pansies were planted to the triangle of road junctions in the main areas of the town. The mill wheel project, the adjudicator was pleased to note, is now complete in this area in the vicinity of the library look extremely well. However litter was apparent to this area which has been an ongoing major problem for quite a number of years now.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Your work in relation to the waterfront walk and the pond lodge restoration are all highly commendable in regard to this

aspect of the competition. Perhaps you could organise a nature trail providing a map with areas of local wildlife interest for the walker.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control on the day was extremely bad. Quite a lot of litter was apparent on the Bantry Road and more on the Vaughan's Pass Road. There was a great deal to be seen on the Glengarriff Road and, as previously mentioned, to the Mill stream area at the library.

TIDINESS

Do discourage the advertising hoardings on your main approach roads – these provide a very cluttered appearance to both the Cork and Glengarrif approaches to the town. The estate office on the square appeared quite grubby, as did the Anchor Tavern as previously mentioned. A grubby out building on the Vaughan's Pass Road should be painted up before next year's competition.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard in this category of the competition was extremely good with many of the fine B&B's along approach roads contributing well in this regard. Work was taking place to a house at the top of Bridge Street. A new housing estate was noted on the Vaughan's Pass Road and some magnificent gardens extending to the roadside in this location looked marvellous. A charming house with rose garden and freshly whitewashed boundary wall on Chapel Street was admired. The many fine houses on the Glengarriff Road looked well as did the many attractive B&B's, with magnificent gardens.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The standard in this category of the competition was reasonably good given the busy nature of the town. The Cork Road was well maintained but weeds were apparent to boundary walls and kerbsides in a number of locations. The stretch of road by the water's edge appeared quite neat. The Vaughan's Pass Road was quite overgrown but its road surface was in extremely good condition. Weed control was also a problem to kerbsides on the Glengarriff Road and the welcome sign on this side of the town appeared scratched with graffiti. Signage could have been improved upon. Directional signs on Wolfe Tone Square were quite grubby as was street name signage, particularly on Chapel Street, and a parking sign outside the Catholic Church appeared extremely stained with green algae from the trees above. You should organise as a project, a standardisation of your B&B signs on approach roads in order that they give the streets a less cluttered appearance.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Bantry is a busy town with much activity and many visitors. It continues to do well in the competition. Litter control

appeared to be a definite problem on the day and will need to be tackled in order to progress further in the competition.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (07/08/01)

The stone wall along the left-hand side of the Cork approach with the boats bobbing in the sea and the glimpse of the town beyond creates a welcome introduction to Bantry. The square is admired for its urban quality and brightness due to the Blanc de Bierges paving. Road surfacing however throughout much of the town centre leaves much to be desired. Litter, although present, was less of a problem on our second visit. While the main parts of the town appear reasonably well there are some vacant and derelict sites in back areas which need to be developed or at least tidied in the short term. The playground on the Glengarrif road was being well used and clearly is a success. We wish you well with your future endeavours!