

# Tidy Towns Competition 2003

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Banteer**

Ref: **537**

County: **Cork North**

Mark: **204**

Category: **B**

Date: **26/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	39
The Built Environment	40	30	29
Landscaping	40	25	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	19
Litter Control	40	22	19
Tidiness	20	14	13
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	20
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>192</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

The information supplied with the application form gives a good idea of the great enthusiasm and commitment of the Tidy Towns committee in Banteer. Such wonderful projects in hand can only lead to an improved environment and greater village spirit. The Action Plan 2003 is well focussed and clarifies the committee's objectives. The railway station is a fine building and when the nearby work is completed this will look even more attractive. Stonewalls play a very significant part of the overall fabric of the town. The application for Village Renewal funding and the LEADER project details enclosed present further possibilities for development. Progress should be assessed on a year-by-year basis and adjustments made as necessary each year. While the major projects substantially improve the village, it is very important that the small details are attended to as well.

### The Built Environment:

Stonewall building has formed a major part of the progress of Banteer. The bridge is a wonderful project and improves the entrance considerably from the Cork approach. Work is continuing at the railway station and appears as if it will be some time before work is completed. The church is an attractive stone building, which defines the main centre of the village, along with the crossroads. The community hall and schools look well. The business premises are well treated. Some attention to the gable end wall of the motor showroom would be welcome, as would dealing with the structure beside the garage and corner. The underground cabling in the town is very welcome. The colour scheme through the town is attractive with so many buildings well painted. A stone dormer-style

house on the railway road looks attractive. The gutters pass across the windows. In any restoration of old buildings it is wise to have an authentic restoration plan. The single storied houses on the road to the school have been altered considerably and each is different now, with various window types and doors. The town houses are now completed and these seem to fit well into the street giving welcome new life to the village centre. St. Furseys Estate has a pleasant entrance, but attention is needed to the open spaces within.

### **Landscaping:**

Very good landscaping has been carried out at the bridge with excellent tree and shrub planting. Attention to detail when grass cutting and on-going maintenance of these areas is important while they are becoming established and especially where there is so much free space around them. The area by the pond field is beautifully landscaped and a delight to visit. The paths are well kept and the children's play area is well presented. The approach to the large new housing estate below the new bridge has been planted very densely with trees – this is very welcome and in time will be a marvelous sight when all these trees mayure. Again, attention to detail at the entrance is needed and a good maintenance plan. The school grounds are well maintained. The planting at Glenwood is very clean and tidy and gives a very crisp appearance in a minimalist style. Several roadside gardens contribute well to the overall landscape of the town and credit is due for these. The dry stonewall planted attractively at a house on the road towards the school is very well done and deserves mention. The space between the station and the new wall offers an interesting planting opportunity. There are some spruce trees along part of this. The mounding could be utilised to good effect in any planting scheme. Containerised plantings in the village add pleasant summer colour and the attractive landscape feature on the corner outside the "Olde Coach Inn" looks very well.

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

The pond field is a great asset in the village and it is very accessible. A walk around this pond is very enjoyable and there is lots to see. Perhaps some sign-board information would be helpful. The fan-tailed pigeons are a nice addition, although crows were invading their home at the visit. Projects could be initiated to make greater advantage of this area and involvement with the local school would be helpful in this regard.

### **Litter Control:**

Litter problems of last year seem to be considerably remedied. The pond area was very clean and similarly the streets. Some small amounts of litter were noted in places and a constant effort is needed to keep litter at bay.

### **Tidiness:**

Again, the area by the sides of the telephone kiosk need attention; a broken wall, rusty gate and weedy appearance do not help. The area enclosed behind was recently cut. Weed grass in pavements kerbs was noted at a number of locations and it is important that these details are looked after, even though there are major improvements in hand.

### **Residential Areas:**

The housing estates are well cared for with many gardens making a lovely contribution to the appearance of the estates. As mentioned, Glenwood looks particularly well. The large estate by the telephone kiosk - Eagle View - has the benefit of a very good framework of tree planting on the open spaces and in the car park, with the exception of the entrance site which appears a little weak

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

The splendid road surface by the new bridge is welcome. The roadside by the station, where the

work is in progress, is a little disrupted for the moment. The new footpaths towards the school are a good addition and footpaths built towards the bridge are excellent.

**General Impression:**

Banteer is progressing very well. The amount achieved to date and ongoing works are a credit to all concerned. With attention to detail and a persistent approach to improvements, Banteer will progress well during the coming years and has much to offer.