

# Tidy Towns Competition 2003

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kanturk**

Ref: **542**

County: **Cork North**

Mark: **163**

Category: **C**

Date: **26/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	24	
The Built Environment	40	24	
Landscaping	40	27	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	
Litter Control	40	14	
Tidiness	20	11	
Residential Areas	30	19	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	
General Impression	10	6	
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>163</b>	

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Over the past few years of adjudication a development plan for Kanturk was requested. At this stage it is vital that such a plan be made and put into place. Kanturk is a large town with many diverse parts. The need for overall planning is very relevant now to build on the good work that has been done in Strand Street. The challenge of litter, dereliction, painting and décor is at a crucial stage and the motivation for improvement could well lie in the development of a five year plan. This should be drawn up in consultation with all relevant public, residents and business interests within and around the town

### The Built Environment:

There are many fine buildings in Kanturk. The church and schools look well. The AIB Bank and credit union look especially well, particularly as both these buildings have been well painted on the side facing the river. This is a great help as the backs of many buildings look unattractive. Looking across the river from William O'Brien Street the appearance of the many roofs and unsightly backs of buildings need attention. The garda station looks well. A number of business premises on the main streets, especially Strand Street are well maintained. The paving lamp standards and parking arrangements in the street are very good. The shops that have been upgraded over the years now highlight the others that need attention. The Egmont Place area is attractive. Some single storied housing is also attractive but in some of these terraces, such as at Strand Street upper, there have been so many alterations to the housing that the unity and character of the terrace has been lost

and care is needed in this regard in all parts of the town. Similarly the single storied housing on the approach road to the sports grounds have been altered considerably. A number of excellently presented shops, well painted and with good signage, deserve credit

### **Landscaping:**

The parks are nicely placed by the river. This allows people avail of riverside walks. Litter is very prevalent in the part of the park opposite O'Brien Street and this is a pity. The upper end of the park by the pedestrian bridge and the children's play area are well maintained and the seating, colourful shelters and walkways make this an attractive place. The small park opposite the church carpark is pleasant but marred by considerable amounts of litter. There are a number of containerised plantings around the town, which contribute well to the summer colour. Hanging baskets and window boxes provide valuable summer colour in the streets - a good example being close to the Cinema area. Gardens of individual houses contribute well and credit is due to the owners of who obviously are very dedicated to maintaining their homes and gardens. Trees are progressing well on Strand Street and on Church Street, although some have been drastically cut back and need to be removed and new plantings made. By allowing parking on Main street, considerable traffic holdups can occur. This street is too narrow to allow parking, especially when large car parks are available and would be better utilised rather than on street parking.

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

The riverside bank is the obvious place where wildlife can be appreciated. Initiatives that would encourage this should be considered

### **Litter Control:**

The litter situation within and around the town is causing serious problems. A unified planned approach would address this problem at all levels is required, e,g, an investigation into the cause of the problems, education and promotion campaigns, etc.

### **Tidiness:**

The difficulties with tidiness go hand in hand with the litter problems. The bottle bank area, for instance, has overflowing material lying about. While Tidy Towns supports and indeed encourages recycling, can something be done about litter collection here. The area of the livestock marts is untidy. The square with the on-street fruit and vegetable market causes problems and the many buildings needing attention all converge to make the need for a "tidiness plan" very relevant. Attention to detail is important under this heading. Such items as the state of fences, street signs, entrance barriers at the hospital carpark, shop signs, litter bins and church gates are examples of where improvements can be made.

### **Residential Areas:**

The new housing estates at Highfield Crescent looked well- a watchful eye should be kept on all new estates and building sites to see that the developers finish off the area well before leaving the site. The housing estate at Edel Quinn Place is well maintained. St Patrick's Place is carefully tended by the residents and the entrance to this is attractive with the seat and stone work. Many streetside houses are maintained well, but there are also a number needing attention. Houses on the approach roads are generally well tended and add to the appearance of those approach roads.

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

The approach roads are in reasonably good condition, grass verge cutting has been taking place. Allowing parking in some of the narrow parts of the town is unwise as traffic build-up can occur so easily. There are sufficient carparks around the town that would relieve this problem.

## **General Impression:**

Kanturk is attractively located by the riverside. Towns on riverbanks have a great opportunity to avail of that facility and use the picturesque setting to best advantage. There is need for a serious look at the state of premises throughout the town and particularly the level of litter. This has been remedied in other towns and perhaps consultation with another town that has successfully faced this challenge would be useful. Your 5 year plan of action will go a long way in helping you focus on what needs to be addressed. If this is done Kanturk can make real progress in the competition over the coming years.