

# Tidy Towns Competition 2003

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Bantry**

Ref: **512**

County: **Cork West**

Mark: **242**

Category: **D**

Date: **03/08/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	46	46
The Built Environment	40	34	33
Landscaping	40	36	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	25
Litter Control	40	24	24
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	29
General Impression	10	9	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>237</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

The comprehensive documentation provided by the committee was most helpful on the day of adjudication. The photographs also gave a very clear idea of some of the work that you have been doing in Bantry. Your Action Plan is a very comprehensive document and the adjudicator feels that the plan must at all times guide your work as a committee. You involve a wide range of allied organisations in Bantry in your Tidy Towns work and this is commendable. You are also getting very good local sponsorship support. The revival of the old local Tidy Towns Competition is an excellent idea and this will help to keep environmental improvement at the front of many local agendas. Do continue to involve the local schools. Some of these pupils will no doubt be Tidy Towns Committee members in a few years time.

### The Built Environment:

The new development beside the entrance to Bantry House is strongly welcomed by the adjudicator. Hopefully the developers will use a strong colour for external walls. There is a very good use of colour in the town and some quite brave colours have been used - but they do work! It is quite encouraging to see that improvements in Marino Street have started. Quite often it needs just one developer in an area to re-develop and many others frequently follow. Hopefully a new use will be found for the now closed Maxol Station if it is not to re-open as a petrol station. The new development in Bridge Street is encouraging and the planned works for the church/Chapel Street and funeral home area are welcomed. There seems to be a wide range of re-investment underway or

planned for Bantry and this speaks well for the future economic success of the town. The square is a really excellent development and credit must be given to Cork County Council and many others for the decision to go ahead with this project a few years ago. In short, it has transformed Bantry as a town. At the old railway pier, the railings and uprights needs to be re-painted in a bright colour. The Bantry Inshore Search and Rescue building looks extremely well and the plain colour of the external walls is effective. Many other buildings in Bantry stand out. These include Bantry Bay Hotel, James Lyons & Co., Coen's Pharmacy, Swains in William Street and the Central Fish Market. Signposting in a few areas needs to be rationalised and standardised and you might look at this with Cork County Council for 2004. Some projecting signs were noted and these should be discouraged.

### **Landscaping:**

The new work on the Peace Park has been examined and the improvements are commendable. However, briar growth has started and grass is coming up through the gravel pathways. The proposed landscaping at the library will complement a most interesting building in design terms, together with the water wheel. Many good landscaped areas were noted, including the attractive area near the new toilet block. The grounds of the Westlodge Hotel are excellently presented.

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

The "Birds of the Bay" project is most interesting and the adjudicator looks forward to seeing the two new display panels on the bird life of the Bantry area. Have you considered giving information on the local flora also?

### **Litter Control:**

In general, litter control is quite good, but litter was noted in the square. However there has been an improvement since the Tidy Towns Competition in 2002.

### **Tidiness:**

Damaged seats and tables were noted in the Peace Park and these need urgent attention. Your report mentions the Inner Dock. It is a medium to long term project but it would have an extremely positive impact on the town. The under-grounding of cables and the decorative lighting for the square are great projects that will add so much to Bantry town. The bring site on the approach road to the pier, though heavily used, was neat and tidy.

### **Residential Areas:**

The relatively new terraced houses opposite the Peace Park continue to be well presented and they form an attractive introduction to the town proper on that approach road. At Marian Terrace and Market Street some houses are in need of re-painting, but other excellent presentations were also noted. An excellent mature landscaped area was noted in part of the Slip Lawn area. However, there are a number of advertising signs at private houses here and one wonders if they are all really necessary. Near the Peace Park some fine gardens sloping down to the main road were observed. On Scairt Road some of the terraced houses here, built on the slope, have real character. However, nearby at Beacon Hill, the two open areas would benefit from some low level planting. Just beyond St. Finbarre's Terrace the new houses on the right would benefit from having the open areas landscaped. The grass in these areas is high and needed cutting on adjudication day.

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

The Newtown Road approach is excellently presented and the new road surfacing looks really well. On the left hand side, some of the road banks need trimming and weed growth at kerbs was also noted. The Cork Road approach past the Westlodge Hotel also impressed and the sea views from this approach are superb. Some grass needs to be trimmed back from the kerbing on the inland side.

### **General Impression:**

The presentation of Bantry is improving year on year and it is good to read that the committee have a long term vision for what they want to achieve for the town. The level of local cooperation is excellent and Cork County Council have done a lot of really good work here. The adjudicator looks forward to seeing further progress in 2004.

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

Bantry is a pleasant working West Cork town which continues to perform well in the competition. Cois Riasc is an attractive relatively new housing development on the Glengarriff approach to the town. Discourage flyposting as it can give approach roads and streets a very cluttered appearance. Street furniture could have been to a higher standard on the day; rusty litter bins and flaky benches on the square created a bad impression. An overflowing litter bin looked unfortunate at the boatyard on the quayside on the Cork approach. The odd paper was spotted scattered along this road. The park appeared to be undergoing some rejuvenation in this location.