

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Banteer**

Ref: **11**

County: **Cork North**

Mark: **213**

Category: **B**

Date: **08/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	41
The Built Environment	40	31	30
Landscaping	40	27	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	20
Litter Control	40	24	22
Tidiness	20	15	14
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	23
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	213	204

Overall Developmental Approach:

The Tidy Towns Committee in Banteer continues to have a coordinated approach to the Competition. The comprehensive data submitted with the entry form was most helpful. The community and the Committee have now laid a good foundation for further progress. By linking this solid local effort with the Local Authority Village Renewal Scheme in addition to availing of assistance under the IRD Community Projects funding, the effort overall is ensured to have greater impact.

The Built Environment:

As has been acknowledged previously, the use of local stone in and around the village is an attractive and distinctive feature. The beautiful church of St. Fursey is an imposing building in the village and is excellently maintained as are the adjoining grounds. The Banteer Community Centre Premises, an important facility in the village are well maintained and presented. The school building and adjoining grounds were attractively maintained, no doubt the pupils and teachers are playing an important role in the community's overall effort. As well as being an important amenity for the community, the Railway Station is a prominent building in the village and the refurbishing work carried out here has enhanced the building considerably and consequently this area of the village. The business premises in the village are tastefully presented. The Post Office occupies a focal point in the village centre and is excellently maintained. The forecourt and general area adjoining the garage in the village was very tidy and well maintained. Though located well outside the village, the Glen Theatre is an invaluable cultural asset to the community. The conversion of this former school

for theatre and entertainment purposes is an enlightened development. However, at the time of adjudication the general area within the perimeter walls of the theatre was somewhat untidy and this would need to be monitored in the future.

Landscaping:

There are a number of examples of good landscaping in the vicinity of the village. Most prominent in this regard is the work which has been carried out in the general area of the Pond Field. Extensive landscaping has been carried out in the immediate water area. In addition, a considerable amount of landscaping has also been carried out in the vicinity of the Childrens Playground, the playing field and race track. Also the landscaping work on the Clonmeen road is impressive. In addition, the landscaping work which has been carried out in the vicinity of the Railway Station will improve this area considerably. Other examples of good landscaping work can be seen at the Glenwood and Eagle View residential areas.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

In a rural village like Banteer there is almost always natural habitat for various species of wildlife which does of course enrich the lives of the community. The development of the Pond Field project is a major environmental project for the community. Many bird species are attracted to the area and the provision of nest boxes etc. enhances this aspect of the project. The standard of maintenance throughout the park is good and defined walks and pathways are well attended. It is a most pleasant area for both the local community and visitors.

Litter Control:

Litter bins are in place at vantage points in the village. There has to be a constant watch for litter and this requires the cooperation of the whole community. It would seem that a good effort has been made this year to control litter. Every effort should be made to maintain this awareness amongst the community in the future.

Tidiness:

Overall there was a reasonably good level of tidiness throughout the village. The open area at the entrance to the Glen Close residential development was quite untidy and needs to be attended to. The area in the vicinity of the telephone kiosk across from the church was quite tidy this year. Areas in the vicinity of business premises in the village centre were very tidy. The area in the vicinity of the Sportsfield and Childrens Playground were generally quite tidy. The car park near the Eagle View residential area was very tidy.

Residential Areas:

This is a category of the Competition where all residents can play a part. In general, the standard of residential areas in and around the village was very good. Houses and gardens were generally very well maintained. For example in the Glenwood residential area, houses and gardens were beautifully presented with neatly trimmed lawns. Similarly in the Eagle View area, houses and gardens were well attended to. The residential area off the Clonmeen road was also very nicely maintained – the large green areas here were neatly trimmed and well maintained. Individual houses and gardens on the various approach roads were attractively presented.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

In general the condition of footpaths and new roads was quite good, however there were some exceptions. The condition of the approach road from the main Mallow/Killarney route was quite good. The place-name signs depicting the "Duhallow Trail" which are located on main approach roads were considered colourful and attractive. The Cork/Macroom approach road with that fine new bridge was especially clean and tidy. The Clonmeen approach road was quite untidy – there was very high grass and weed growth along the verges here and were in need of being trimmed. The new footpaths in the vicinity of the Railway Station looked well. Also the stone walls in the vicinity of the Railway Station are very attractive. However a section of the attractive old stone wall near the level crossing is broken and in need of repair. The Rural Transport bus shelter near the car park in the vicinity of the Eagle View Residential area was very clean and well maintained. The old village pump near the Post Office has been attractively restored and protected by a well painted railing – this is now an attractive feature in the village centre. The walls of the old Banteer Bridge on the Clonmeen road were clean and attractive and the memorial plaques on the bridge were well maintained. The signs in the village and within the Pond Field were tastefully presented and well maintained.

General Impression:

To achieve progress in the Competition, it is essential to maintain a good level of coordination between the local community and relevant public agencies, etc. In Banteer a good effort is being made in this regard. From the supporting material submitted it is particularly interesting to note that the Tidy Towns Committee set up a school liaison group to participate in anti litter campaigns. Also the setting up of similar liaison with the Youth Club is equally important. This is the type of approach, which lays a good foundation for a thriving Tidy Towns spirit. The Banteer community should continue to follow planned schemes for the future as such a course is guaranteed to bring further success.