

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Bantry**

Ref: **727**

County: **Cork West**

Mark: **244**

Category: **D**

Date: **06/08/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	46	46
The Built Environment	40	34	34
Landscaping	40	36	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	25
Litter Control	40	24	24
Tidiness	20	14	13
Residential Areas	30	26	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	30
General Impression	10	9	9
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>242</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Bantry Tidy Towns Committee are to be congratulated on their very comprehensive submission. It seems to be quite an organised committee which has a good relationship with Cork County Council. Your action plan for the town certainly made interesting reading. The Boy Scout Initiative for picking up litter is a highly commendable one, but perhaps some consideration could be given to extending or supplementing this initiative in some way, as litter is still a distinct problem in the town. Your local Tidy Towns Competition is an excellent one and your new topiary was noted and admired. The restoration of the East Lodge to Bantry House will certainly make a great difference to this approach to the town.

### The Built Environment:

Most of the buildings to main streets looked well such as the Bantry Bay Hotel, the Fire Station and the Tourist Office. However, some dereliction is still evident and a number of buildings were not maintained to the same high standard and looked quite shabby in comparison to those that were well maintained. The Craft Shop on the Glengarrif Road was extremely bright and cheery as was the interior shop opposite. The Post Office looked well and it was noted that work had taken place to the Library building since this adjudicator's last visit. The new cinema was admired and the new Garda District Headquarters on the water's edge should have a good impact in this prominent location. The Church of Ireland and Methodist Churches looked well as indeed did the Catholic Church with its magnificent grounds which extended beyond its boundary and onto the roadside. The adjudicator

was interested to note that rear areas are beginning to be developed such as that on Barrack Street.

### **Landscaping:**

The West Lodge Hotel makes a good presentation to the roadside - both through its grounds and extending to the footpath. The Pond Lodge development on this road contributes well to the overall presentation and has developed significantly over the years. The relatively new trees on Wolfe Tone Square were coming along nicely. However, some litter was evident in this location and the street furniture such as bollards, bins and seats were in need of some attention. Hopefully this will have taken place before the town is next judged. Floral displays throughout looked well and the grotto is a credit to all concerned.

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

Bantry is indeed fortunate in its magnificent location on Bantry Bay. The new wildlife signs overlooking the bay at Wolfe Tone Square were noted and admired. However, you should consider further projects with regard to this category of the competition, such as perhaps getting the local school children, with whom you have such a strong relationship, involved by means of conducting projects on the wildlife habitats of the area and perhaps developing a wildflower meadow. Do consult your Tidy Towns Handbook for ideas in this regard.

### **Litter Control:**

The standard of litter control on the day could have been better. Some was evident on the Bandon Road and more at Wolfe Tone Square. The main problem areas seemed to be at the water's edge close to Wolfe Tone Square and to the water feature at the Library - the visible presence of litter on the approach roads is certainly unfortunate and litter control at the water feature has been a problem area for years! The adjudicator notes your comments regarding a temporary litter warden, extra bins and discussions with local businesses and it is to be hoped that this will improve the situation as it has been ongoing for a number of years now.

### **Tidiness:**

The town generally looked neat and ordered on adjudication day. However, weed control was a problem to stone boundary walls on the Bandon Road and a broken down wall at the park area in this location created a bad impression. Do discourage the practice of fly posting and endeavour to screen untidy yard areas from public view as these can give visitors a very poor impression of the town.

### **Residential Areas:**

The restoration of the East Gate Lodge is certainly very highly commendable - Bantry House provides the visitor with an excellent impression as one enters the town. Kilmore House B&B looked very cheerful, the houses facing the Peace Park lookd quite charming. Slip Park has an attractive well maintained open space. The attractice houses on the Glengarriff Road looked well- the B&B's in this location contribute well to this category of the competition.

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

The Bandon Road was quite reasonable if a little bit rough. The abundance of advertising hoardings creates a bad impression on this approach. However, some charming wild daisies were admired and there should be a marvelous display of montbretia in time. The Glengarriff Road and footpaths were in very bad condition and the adjudicator your comments in relation to this problem. Hopefully the County Council will find the resources to improve this situation.

## **General Impression:**

Bantry is a busy and vibrant town which is always a pleasure to visit. Steady progress is being made but much work will have to be done in regard to ongoing litter black spots!

## **Second Round Adjudication:**

The town was a hive of activity with the monthly market in full swing on a fine summer's morning. You have quite a large area under adjudication and the busy through-traffic is demanding on the environment. Approach roads are well presented and the many fine historic and large period buildings offer great character to this historic town. Wolfe Tone Square is a splendid focal point and provides an impressive introduction to the town from the Skibbereen approach. We were saddened at the state of the public toilets near the tourist office. These should become a priority for the town council to tackle as they are projecting a poor image for Bantry. The specific water wheel was much admired and is an animating feature in this part of the town. The Post Office must be one of the most attractive in Ireland. The bilingual street signage is of a high quality and helpful to any adjudicator in getting around. Street signage in places is in need of cleaning and non essential signs on roundabouts and traffic islands should be removed. The town was inspected on the evening of the market day also and litter control was good, despite the day's trading, so well done. Well done to all the traders for an attractive display of colour. Thank you once again for such a comprehensive submission.