

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kanturk**

Ref: **167**

County: **Cork North**

Mark: **171**

Category: **C**

Date: **22/06/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	24	24
The Built Environment	40	25	25
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	12
Litter Control	40	14	14
Tidiness	20	12	11
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>167</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

We would very much welcome a sketch map of the town and some indication of a work programme. We were at a disadvantage in not having a map as some streets are without name signs and also housing estates are poorly identified. If you do not have a phased plan for improvement we urge you to treat such a requirement as urgent. Your vision for an improved Kanturk is vital to the Competition and such a plan will enable you to set goals and apply your efforts in a phased way. It would also help you in seeking help from various relevant agencies: e.g., Cork Co. Council, ESB, Eircom etc.

### The Built Environment:

The town has great character and is richly endowed with a beautiful river, mature trees, period buildings, multi arched bridge, and a plethora of interesting traditional features. Indeed there are few towns with so much 19th century character in evidence. That said, you have many problems that need to be tackled as you cope with 21st century requirements. Many of these are basic, but some are major and this is why you need a development plan. You are not alone in having traffic problems and car parking is now one of your major problems and the discipline of car parking will play an important role in improving the town's appearance. For the most part public buildings looked well as mentioned last year and many excel in presentation. The Credit Union building is most imposing and well presented. Furthermore it is located in the best presented part of the town at Strand Street. You should highlight the 19th century architecture in your literature as this will

become more important in the years ahead and lay greater emphasis on the plaster features on many of the buildings.

### **Landscaping:**

The tree planting at Strand Street is very good and should be extended to other areas. Not so at Church Street where the trees have been vandalised and one cut down. We are puzzled at their condition and they should be removed as they are also damaging the footpaths. Many towns (see Ennis in Co. Clare) are now making a feature of urban tree planting and with proper selection of species and planting trees are richly enhancing many of our urban areas. There is no doubt Kanturk would benefit from a tree planting blitz. We liked the display of standards on the Mallow approach and they provide a welcoming introduction to the town. We acknowledge the many individual efforts by commercial operators and residents through the provision of tubs, window boxes, hanging baskets, all combining to give great colour.

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

You have a riverside park that is surely the envy of other towns the size of Kanturk. This adjudicator waked the route and found it well presented and richly embellished with attractive shrubs and small arches. This is your strong point and we commend you on its presentation. Of course it offers great potential for improving an appreciation of wildlife and we suggest you embark on a wildlife project for 2006. The erection of display boards illustrating the local flora and fauna would stimulate interest and no doubt raise your marks in this category.

### **Litter Control:**

You have some problems in this area and litter was evident in many places around the town. The condition of litter bins generally is poor: e.g., the bins at the park, and outside the Bank of Ireland have gone shabby and need replacement. Stainless steel bins are now available (see Limerick City) and have a longer life span. There is a litter trap opposite the corner of Church Street near the monument. Bring Banks have been immensely successful in most areas and are now of great benefit to many communities. However, if not properly disciplined they can be a disaster and sadly should be removed if they continue to be abused. We are now in a new era of litter and waste control and people will be obliged to change their ways. Your committee might consider visiting a new Bring Centre in Millstreet, where a state of the art development is now in its first year of operation.

### **Tidiness:**

Your problems here relate to unattended buildings and some dereliction. You have problems on the approach roads and within the town centre. The view from river park near the bridge overlooks a host of rusty corrugated sheds and is now a black spot. Such a remedy is beyond the scope of a voluntary committee but it would be advisable to bring such observations to the attention of the owners, as it is a deterrent in raising your marks.

### **Residential Areas:**

We really liked Egmont Place with its distinctive terraced period houses. This is indicative of well presented 19th century planning making good use of the river environs. In general housing estates are well presented and many individuals have gone to great trouble to present their premises to a high standard.

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

Making a first visit to Kanturk Castle proved a great treat. This fine ruin is unique and offers a great insight into Tudor building. Well done to the National Monuments Department for high class illustrations and interpretations. Some of these have gone shabby and need replacement: they

provide a great service and we suggest you let the authorities have a copy of this report. There is also some lovely oak planting fronting the castle. The landscaping development near the castle on the approach to town is good, but the seating needs painting. The War of Independence Memorial near Church Street is in a sad state. The monument should be refurbished and the environs landscaped and left free from car parking: its current state reflects poorly on the memory of those listed.

### **General Impression:**

It was a pleasure to visit Kanturk in such detail and witness such great character in its buildings and the beauty of its river and landscaped river park. You have much to be proud of. You now need to formulate a phased development plan that will have the backing of the community and liaise closely with other agencies in improving the environmental standard of the town. You have potential to be a high scorer in the competition and we wish you luck in your endeavours.