

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Bantry**

Ref: **503**

County: **Cork West**

Mark: **250**

Category: **D**

Date: **12/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	46	46
The Built Environment	40	35	34
Landscaping	40	36	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	25
Litter Control	40	25	24
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	26	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	34	30
General Impression	10	9	9
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>244</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Bantry is welcome to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission and supporting photographs and documentation. Your planned work programme makes interesting reading and your stated objectives are realistic, we wish you every success in achieving these. Bantry enjoys a magnificent location built on a hill and sweeping down to Bantry Bay affording excellent views from approach roads of seascape and in the carpark near the ESB the wonderful vista of the new Market Square and Wolfe Tone Square against a backdrop of wooded hills and interesting field patterns; when service cables have been ducted this view will be faultless.

### The Built Environment:

The new hard landscaped amenity in the Market Square with its many fine features including public art was a joy to experience and affords a wonderful opportunity for pedestrians to enjoy the town: it has been considered for both the Landscape Award and the Sustainable Development Award. The new Garda station has been considered for both the Architectural Award and the Sustainable Development Award and the new development incorporating the Spar, the Bantry Pharmacy and the Tourist Office was admired also. The Bantry Bay Hotel is presented to an excellent standard and there are numerous examples of well presented shop fronts. The entrance grounds to Bantry House overlooking the bay is stately. The Christian Fellowship church was also admired for its presentation. A street up from the Market Square which forms a junction with Barrack Street has several buildings in need of improvement. The standard of streetscape and buildings at upper level

in the town is not quite as good as that achieved for the Market Square and Wolfe Tone Square. The wire mesh gate to the car park of Biggs Supervalu car park spoils the streetscape. The gates to the ESB depot were admired. Awnings such as that featured on Knitwell Wool should be discouraged. Bridge Street looked well and the water wheel is a nice feature here.

### **Landscaping:**

Commendations have already been made regarding the newly developed Market Square, however a little more attention to detail is required here; some of the street furniture such as seating and litter bins were in need of repainting; the public toilets are presented to an excellent standard both inside and outside. Flower displays throughout and in particular window boxes added a nice dash of colour to streetscapes. Landscaping to the sea wall was attractive. Landscaping at the Pond Lodge was not to award standard; there is an over reliance on non-native plants such as Cordylines. Again you are reminded to choose native species over non-native or exotics as these encourage diversity of wildlife habitats; we appreciate the limitations imposed by your coastal location.

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

The Pond Lodge is an attractive development and provides a diversity wildlife habitats. The foreshore area is perhaps your greatest natural amenity; at the time of adjudication the tide was out to reveal two shopping trolleys and a shopping basket which looked as though they had been there for quite a long time; this can be detrimental to wildlife. Both piers were presented to a good standard and the small strand was being enjoyed at the time of adjudication. The entrance to Pairc Wolfe Tone was excellent and the nearby children's playground was noted also as a fine development. Outbreaks of wild flower were noted at several locations and species included the very attractive monte bretia.

### **Litter Control:**

There was a light scattering of litter around Wolfe Tone Square and an abandoned shopping trolley was noted here also. Litter control was improved on last year's presentation, well done; the evening time litter pickups appear to be effective; congratulations also on your visits to local schools and the organisation of school children for litter picking at specified times. We wish you well with appointing a litter warden. It is good to note your participation in Cork County Council's annual litter challenge.

### **Tidiness:**

In addition to the abandoned shopping trolleys at the foreshore area, a number were noted at locations around the town. The recycling point within the town has high visibility, some dumping was noted there. We note from your submission the relocation of the recycling facility out of the town to the Cork Road and that this facility is available for householders also. A dilapidated entrance which featured wire mesh gates located just before the car park on Chapel Street presents a problem under this heading. The area across the road from Murphy & O'Connor Ltd. at the quayside, including a building and its curtilage area, is underdeveloped and looks somewhat untidy; is the latter premises vacant? The town has an overall appearance of tidiness.

### **Residential Areas:**

Residential developments are generally well presented as are individual houses. The dwellings in Bantry range from single storey cottage type through to two and three storey handsome buildings to detached buildings in their own grounds, semi-detached buildings and terraces. There is wide diversity of house types and styles. A terrace of single storey dwellings on the entrance from the Glengarrif Road looked well, however some are in need of painting; might this be a good opportunity to consider a colour scheme for the presentation of this terrace? A number of detached dwellings on the Glengarrif Road featured magnificent gardens. Housing estates are generally well presented and The Sidings were no exception with well planted areas and a wonderful scenic view of the

surrounding countryside, however kerbs marking the entrance were weedy. We note your local Tidy Towns Competition initiative and the large number of estates that are commended for their work in maintaining their landscaped areas which include Keyes Terrace, St. Cainir's Place, Slip Lawn estate, Marino Heights and others. Well done on the appointment of an external contractor for grass cutting in council estates.

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

Congratulations on road resurfacing in Marino Street together with footpath widening and resurfacing. Work on New Street and outside of Supervalu is noted also; we note proposed future developments in this respect. The new pedestrian walkway will increase safety at the junction of New Street and William Street. Car parking appears to be well organised in the town and all car parks were found to be quite tidy on adjudication day. There is a nice use of stone at the entrance to the car park near the ESB yards. Stone walls from the West Lodge Hotel into the town were admired. Hopefully the service pole at the Bank of Ireland and its associated service cables will be removed in the not too distant future as it is quite unsightly.

### **General Impression:**

Bantry is a beautiful town with a handsome built environment and fine recreational amenity facilities including natural amenities and is a pleasure to visit on any occasion.

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

The town was busy on a Thursday a.m. second adjudication day in August. You have one of the best developed squares in the country and the generous space allotted for pedestrians is commendable. You now need to freshen up the seating and paint the litter bins on the square as they have gone shabby. We also liked the water fountain and the Wolfe Tone monument is dramatic. You also have some of the most imposing period buildings from the 19th century and their presentation is of great environmental value to the town. The water wheel at the library is unique and dramatic. Do retain your traditional shopfronts and we hope the restoration of Bantry Books on High Street will retain the sash windows. Well done to all the commercial outlets for such a high display of window boxes and hanging baskets. Litter control is good and we observed the mechanical cleaner in action. You need a good street map as the current one is out of print. You should lobby the Town Council for a new Toilet Block: the current one is outdated and below the expected standard of a developing town. Your detailed submission represented a tour of the town and was most helpful on adjudication day. You have raised your marks again this year: well done.