

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Banteer** Ref: **93**
County: **Cork (North)** Mark: **239**
Category: **B** Date(s): **21/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	42
The Built Environment	50	34
Landscaping	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	24
Litter Control	50	27
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	239

Overall Development Approach:

Banteer Tidy Towns Committee is obviously a very keen, enthusiastic and dedicated one. Your weekly meetings are obviously paying dividends. You have a large membership of 15 with a back up of 40 volunteers! You have a strong working relationship with IRD Duhallow and the Leader Scheme. Many thanks for your submission. The map and enclosed action plan were most useful on the day. For next year's competition however, try to confine your entry to just the application form, information on any nominations for awards you might have, a map and an action plan. This is more than sufficient to aid judging. Congratulations on being chosen to represent Cork in the National Pride of Place Competition. Your plans for the Church and Community Centre areas are looked forward to with anticipation. Landscaping at the railway station was admired.

The Built Environment:

The centre of the village looked extremely well with the very fresh Post Office, White Country Inn and Church. The Church railings should be painted before next year's competition. The Old Coach Inn in this location was also admired with its roses to the front. The Community Centre looked quite fresh. O'Leary's Stone was nicely presented with tubs outside. The Train Station and platforms were well presented although its car park area appeared a little rough and the signal box was patchy but work appeared to be taking place in this location. The far side of it had some attractive landscaping and hanging baskets were quite cheerful on the platforms. The Glen Theatre is a marvellous initiative as a community project. The forecourt area appeared a little weedy and the gate was a little rusty and the boundary wall should be painted before next year's competition. This adjudicator agrees with the comments made by last year's adjudicator in relation to the use of pvc windows. A lot of litter was evident to the rear of the low wall at the entrance canopy and it appeared a little rough at the rear. Further landscaping should be considered in this location perhaps by planting trees although the flower filled pots were admired.

Landscaping:

This is an area of the competition that you obviously relish. The entrance area to the GAA grounds was good and the park at Pond Field was neatly presented. Its seating, timber bins, pond, fountain and pergola were all admired. Children were feeding ducks on the day. It is a very peaceful area to visit so close to the centre of the village. An attractive planted bed at the school was admired as was the lush planting at the crossroads.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The park at Pond Field, as mentioned previously, was admired. It was a worthy winner of the Landscape Award in previous years. The new information boards were in place along with the children's wildlife survey and findings. The adjudicator was pleased to hear that carp fish are now resident in the lake.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day was very good with only a minor outbreak at the bridge on the Cork Road. The adjudicator agrees wholeheartedly with the sentiments that you express in your application form that the younger you start to be aware of litter and environmental issues the better. Your aspirations for a change in mentality are laudable and hopefully therefore your inclusion of the schoolchildren and youth groups in your work will pay off.

Waste Minimisation:

You mention that you use the facility at Millstreet and that another is planned for Kanturk. Do you feel you need a bottle bank of your own? Your encouragement of householders to use the facility at Millstreet is highly commendable. School initiatives are well worthwhile and your work in regard to segregation of litter from your litter patrols is laudable. The youth club and Cork County Council's project in relation to composting bins sounds like a very interesting one – congratulations on the twenty that were sold.

Tidiness:

The village looked very neat and ordered on the day. A minor problem area was the yard and associated laneway beside the garage in the vicinity of the station and park area where the laneway appeared very weedy and rough and the surface of the yard area appeared a little weedy also. The adjudicator was delighted to hear that you finally sorted out a derelict site in village which has been compulsory purchased.

Residential Areas:

The standard in this category was generally very good. There is a new stock of housing which integrates well into the existing urban fabric of the village. The numerous estates generally looked well such as Glen Wood, Glen Close and Eagle View. Ard na Si appeared a little rough and did not appear to be finished from a landscaping point of view. Some charming cottages behind hedges on the Mallow Road were greatly admired as was a house with an amazing floral display in tubs in this location and a nasturtium display to a stone boundary wall. There are some attractive street houses which were well maintained on the Millstreet Road.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The standard in this category was again generally good. The Mallow Road looked fine. The Cork Road was well maintained and honeysuckle was admired in the hedgerows. Rose trees were evident at the village nameplate and the welcome signs and relatively new trees were coming along well. Signage in the village centre was very fresh. The map must be very useful to visitors. In terms of street furniture glass was missing from the doors and panels of the phone box.

General Impression:

It was a pleasure to visit Banteer for the first time. You are a very enthusiastic and dedicated committee. The village has the potential to do extremely well in the competition and is up there with the best! You are involved in conducting projects that are well worthwhile.