

# Tidy Towns Competition 2006

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Kanturk** Ref: **652**  
County: **Cork (North)** Mark: **180**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **23/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	24
The Built Environment	50	26
Landscaping	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	13
Litter Control	50	14
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	12
Residential Areas	40	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27
General Impression	10	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>180</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

The adjudicator was very disappointed that no map had been supplied with your application! This was mentioned in last year's report also and makes judging extremely difficult especially when trying to locate the items that you have nominated for awards. It was also mentioned in last year's report that you should formulate a development plan but you did not enclose one with this year's application so we can only assume that you still have not put one together. You would appear to have a good working relationship with IRD Duhallow, Cork County Council, the Gardai, the Community Council and the Trout Anglers Association. The work you do with the County Council in relation to derelict properties is commendable. There are many still in the town and are causing blackspots.

### **The Built Environment:**

The main streets of the town generally looked a little inconsistent in appearance on the day. The area by the Mall by the riverside looked well as did Strand Street but the further areas of the town in the direction of Killarney didn't look as well. Do discourage the use of curved canopies and plastic signage and encourage their replacement with traditional fabric awnings and timber signage. Do ensure that the render is not removed from street buildings as this is not only inaccurate from a conservation point of view but can lead to structural problems of water penetration. These buildings were meant to be rendered. The AIB was quite fresh and the Bank of Ireland was also admired with its wonderful window boxes. Heaneys is an attractive curved front with its original sash windows above. The Ealu Boutique looked very well. The Health Centre appeared a little grubby. The National School on Percival Street was admired for its integrated window box filled with flowers.

### **Landscaping:**

The riverside area was nicely landscaped and well maintained although the area by the bridge appeared a little parched due to the hot weather. The stone surrounded grotto was admired. There were numerous

hanging baskets on stands and window boxes throughout the town, which leant a jaunty air. There is scope for furthering this aspect of the competition in terms of incorporating some incidental landscaped spaces. There are many derelict sites that would benefit from development in this way.

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

A heron was spotted on the river on the day. Your work in relation to the riverside areas and maintenance of the three parks is commendable. Have you considered drawing up a wildlife management plan? It would be well worthwhile and would help you in your work in this category of the competition.

#### **Litter Control:**

The standard of litter control on the day could have been a lot better. Quite a lot was evident on the Newmarket Road and the Killarney Road. More was evident on Strand Street and throughout the town. Papers were also evident in the water at the riverside area. You mention that your clean up days with the schools had been successful. You will need to tackle this area of the competition in a more vigorous way.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

You mention in your application that you are involved with the local businesses in relation to recycling. D read your Tidy Towns Handbook for ideas for furthering this aspect of the competition. You should consider organising recycling seminars, composting seminars and seminars on segregation of litter. You should also read the Reduce Reuse Recycle brochure for ideas for furthering this aspect of the competition.

#### **Tidiness:**

Empty sites and dereliction area distinct problem in the town as you have noted yourselves. In terms of street furniture a number of rusty poles on the Mallow side of the bridge were signage used to be looked unfortunate, as did a rusty tree guard and damaged tree outside the Garda Station. You should consider restoring the mill buildings on the Newmarket Road to their former glory, as they are quite magnificent.

#### **Residential Areas:**

There are a number of attractive new housing estates in the town and along approach roads. Of note was Dun an Oir on the Newmarket Road with its attractive planted area and new trees. It looks quite interesting with a rendered finish above and a coursed render finish below in tones of lemon. Aisling Geal with its dry stonewall surround was also admired. In terms of individual houses an attractive house opposite the grotto was admired, as was an attractive rose garden on the Newmarket Road. The Georgian house at the riverside mall area and the colourful terrace of houses adjacent, some of which retained their original sash windows was greatly admired. St. Patrick's Place had a nice landscaped area to its front which is an idea for further incidental landscaped spaces in other areas in the town.

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

Road, approach roads and street areas were generally quite well maintained. The Mallow Road is quite industrial and forms quite a sudden entry into the town. Roadworks were taking place on the Newmarket Road on the day. Dead weeds were evident to kerbsides on the Killarney Road where they had been sprayed but the dead weeds had not been removed.

#### **General Impression:**

Kanturk is a town which is most attractive and has great potential to perform well in the competition. There are quite a number of problem areas which should be tackled. Do draw up a management plan or action plan. This document need only be two or three pages long outlining your plans and objectives for the town. You could use the reports from this year and previous years of Tidy Towns as a starting point.