

# Tidy Towns Competition 2007

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Innishannon** Ref: **135**  
County: **Cork (South)** Mark: **248**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **11/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	37
The Built Environment	50	34
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	18
Litter Control	50	36
Waste Minimisation	20	11
Tidiness	30	12
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	32
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>248</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Thank you for the comprehensively completed entry form together with the most useful map and the splendid aerial photograph which helped greatly on the day of adjudication. Your committee continued to cope well with the sizeable volume of through traffic and your attention to enhancing the environment, both natural and man made, continues apace. It is quite an achievement to continue to secure the voluntary services of 20 to 25 people in your community. It is clear that many segments and elements within the community are working well together within the context of a tidy town's involvement. The fruits of this cross community cooperation were very clear to see on the day of adjudication. The bridge provides a natural entry point to the centre from the Bandon direction and it is very much enhanced by the now completed Old Forge. A panel indicating the significance of the Blacksmith at this location would add still further to the interest and appeal of this exciting development. While this is not always possible we note your request that annual reviews of progress will be carried out by the same adjudicator.

### **The Built Environment:**

Innishannon has many delightful vernacular buildings within its confines. We liked especially the shops at the Cork end of Main Street especially "The Local". The front facing grounds wall and the Christ Church building itself were splendidly presented as was the Village Butcher. The left hand wall and the bridge itself were very well presented. Sadly the present condition of the Marine Centre roof detracts considerably from an overall very pleasing.

### **Landscaping:**

The Grotto on the Kinsale Road was excellent while the Main Street was materially enhanced by the number of trees and low scale planting on both sides. Shepard's was pleasantly festooned by flower baskets while the little half barrels in Old Church Road were also very appealing. It is a pity that due to safety considerations,

which of course much be paramount, that it is necessary to exclude visitors from grounds of the old church. Extensive existing green spaces on all the approach roads were very well maintained to a high standard. The on going program of native trees and hedge planting where possible throughout the town is commendable and you are applauded for your efforts in this regard.

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

The River Bandon provides an excellent basis to develop an integrated wildlife and bird life programme over a number of years. We note you had some success and some difficulties with ducks introduced at the Grotto area. Exploring the development of a wildlife habitat within Scoil Eoin Primary School grounds may be worthwhile. Explore the options with a local wildlife enthusiast or discuss it, in association with the school authorities, with the local wildlife officer attached to the Office of Public Work. Your plans to reinstate the access from the main road to the river would be a great enhancement of these proposals.

#### **Litter Control:**

Full marks on the extent of competition and other attention rating activities you participate in, the art competitions the class projects in schools and the daily litter patrols. Encouraging each estate to take responsibility for their own area is an excellent approach; while participation in the Cork County Council Litter League and An Taisce Spring Clean is to be applauded equally. Securing additional litter bins, perhaps by commercial sponsorship might also be explored.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

You are tackling this section with great success. The participation in the Green School Programme is applauded and we note also that you have a school committee formed. The on going waste segregation at Scoil Eoin Primary School is a good investment for the future of the students. The committee should have discussions with Cork County Council with a view to establishing a Bring or bottle bank facility within the town itself. The three way task of reducing, reusing and recycling is a matter for all.

#### **Tidiness:**

Despite your valiant efforts this was the only section which cost you marks this year. Although the town is generally is well presented with an appealing, orderly towards its many visitors, the position in Old Church Road is getting more serious and dispiriting by the day. The extent of abandoned cars there is an issue that must be resolved. It is recommended that you officially advise Cork County Council of the situation, as they have powers, statutory and others to evaluate and eliminate the difficulties. The Bandon River is such a strong powerful element and aspect of your landscape that it was disappointing to note that both river signs were dirty on the day of adjudication.

#### **Residential Areas:**

Individual house on the Main Street were very well presented in most cases. A number were particularly fetching. The very pleasant fan lights in the three story house, caught the eye and Rose Lawn area looked as bright and cheerful as ever. On the Cork Road we applaud the extent of flowers which set off the very well painted houses here. There is a pleasing overall symmetry between the various house which are appropriate, one to another in size and colour schemes. The terrace on the Kinsale Road was quite attractive as were the houses leading to Rose Lawn.

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

Because of the topography of Innishannon its approach roads and roads generally are of critical importance in the overall impression. As is the case in many Cork centres the name plates were becoming obscured by encroaching vegetation. The speed limit signs were excellent. The Rose Lawn Road appeared to us to be very tight for the volume of traffic it must be presumed to handle. We wondered what was the significances of the sign "No Through Road". We have already spoken about the difficulties on the Old Church Road and hope that these will be resolved soon. Apart from the unsightly motor cars this is most attractive street. Tree planting and street furniture were of a high order and gave a very fine feel to the overall scene.

#### **General Impression:**

Innishannon is a joy to encounter on this busy road in County Cork. The river gives you an opportunity to have a clear cut entrance into the town from the west while the approach from Cork itself is most attractive also. We note your joy at the success of the Forge Project which must have taken a great deal of effort and resources. We are sure that this same sense of resolve coupled with the benefit of cooperation between the various agencies will equally solve the difficulties of the derelict cars in the shadow of the old Graveyard.

Well done to all concerned.