

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Banagher** Ref: **591**
County: **Offaly** Mark: **251**
Category: **C** Date(s): **27/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	36
The Built Environment	50	35
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	22
Litter Control	50	37
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	251

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your completed entry form and developmental plan 2006-2008. It seems there are good partnerships established between various groups in the area with a well organised 'division of labour' by assigning tasks to particular groups. It is great that Banagher Tidy Towns is involved in developing an integrated plan for the area.

The Built Environment:

Some very nice well painted houses in Banagher, very handsome private residences here. The Church of Ireland looks very neat and tidy. All litter free, clean. Lovely black railings and lots of colour. Some older terraced houses, well presented, all litter free. Free of weeds, very smart. Catholic church is also very neat with some beautiful planting outside. Built environment overall is not bad – some derelict buildings in the town which I'm sure the committee is fully aware of.. Many buildings newly painted

St ryans community college has the green flag, well done to them. Quite a few properties for sale. Lovely hanging basket in property beside pharmacy. There are a few buildings undergoing works with temporary railings up which do not look well. The hotel is smart. Corrigan's corner house looks very well. Across the fabulous granary which is in for an architecture award

A derelict site is noticeable, with a site notice as something planned. Haphazardly plastered wall beside it, plain concrete wall beside it, sure that can be improved

Theres a building, old banagher house, really shabby but a site notice that its going to be demolished and built

apartments. a litter bin outside of that needs to be replaced
Some really run down

Daltons looks unused but has an old shopfront. Is it possible to paint it to improve while keeping old signage?

Landscaping:

Shannon bank park is up for a landscape award and the riverside walk up for heritage award. Both are excellent amenities in a beautiful location.

The whole area from Cromwell's fort down past the pitch and putt has a lot of planting, including trees. Seems like a lovely place to play. Walk alongside it is an absolute delight, looks quite natural with discreet lighting. Going thru some lovely beech trees? Can see all the lily pads in river on the lovely walk.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

It is a very pleasant walk down by the riverside as it is very secluded and peaceful.

What I thought was the river splitting in two was actually part of the old canal, is this the 'island' area referred to in entry? Developing this would be good, along with an info sign or something explaining the heritage background of this canal. There's lovely bridges over it and it looks very well, even have railings around it for safety. Surrounded by trees

Pitch and putt area is delightful at the side of the river, with trees around, and fort close by.

Trees and conifers that have been planted in portavolla nice, interesting – nice when mature to break up the big green space.

Continue to liaise with Birdwatch Ireland to protect the corncrake habitat

Litter Control:

Banagher was pleasantly litter free at the time of visit. The sunday morning clean-ups and on-going awareness campaign for the community seem to be keeping it under control. Liaise with litter wardens on any instances of illegal dumping.

Waste Minimisation:

Well done to st rynaghs for achieving green school status. This is an excellent programme for engaging the school and wider community in reducing, reusing and recycling waste., The primary school has no flag flying. Is it also in the green schools programme working towards getting the flag? The awareness campaign to promote waste management to householders is good, as is segregating material from clean-ups for recycling. Liaise with the County Environmental Awareness Officer for further initiatives in this area

Tidiness:

All very neat and tidy at the bridge end of town, with nice bollards, new paving, new footpaths. The bridge itself of course stunning with the lanterns and marina down below
Bridge railings need to be washed but the committee is aware of that as it is referred to in the entry.

Quite a lot of building work and road works in the town does tend to make it untidy so will be better when that is finished.

The streetscape has messy wires criss cross wires which would be far better put parallel

Back street by church of Ireland has completely faded road markings which need to be redone.

There are good parking facilities in centre of town with decorative pillars. All tidy and litter free.

Residential Areas:

The residential areas are good overall in this town.
Some of these residences actually look new and very well

Bit of litter around the bench, faves I think the name of housing estate. Big iron black benches look lovely.

Very good paths and edges, grass trimmed

The crescent could be maintained a bit better.

Portavolla residents have their new, small gardens looking consistently well, I wonder are they helped by tidy towns volunteers? There are good plants for wildlife there such as lavender and mallow.

Shannonbridge side approach – some houses very untidy front and signs missing others immaculately painted, really neat and tidy with gorgeous flowers in the garden – on harbour road

Lovely new properties being built here

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach on the birr road is excellent. Some trees, new fences, lighting, looks like its been recently done. Roads been painted for safe entry into banagher off the main road. Really neat kerbing and entrance into residential area. Overall it looks very smart.

On the road out by the banagher enterprise centre, some farm buildings grotty and derelict. This road brings you back onto the main birr lusmagh road where theres new wooden fencing all along the left which is lovely. On the pathways here, young trees planted. This stretch of road is nice and those trees when they mature will be nicer. Possible area for wildflowers to be incorporated into road side here. At first I didn't see any welcome to banagher signs that were mentioned in application - only broadband sign, but later on other approaches spotted the lovely stone welcome signs.

There are some beautiful private residences on the approach road from the galway side. They're a lot of care taken with the Martello tower and cromwells fort.

General Impression:

Banagher has some wonderful assets, being on the banks of the river Shannon, with an impressive bridge over it and a marina which attracts numerous visitors. There appears to be good planning and organisation amongst the community. There are several derelict sites causing a challenge but without owners involvement these can only be improved so far. It is good to note that there are residents associations in most residential areas. Keep up the good work and best wishes to all.