

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Banteer** Ref: **93**
County: **Cork(North)** Mark: **257**
Category: **B** Date(s): **10/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	38
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	33
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	257

Overall Development Approach:

Congratulations to Banteer TidyTowns Group for participating in the TidyTowns Competition 2008. Thank you for the supporting literature which shows that you are an enthusiastic group of people, committed to the improvement of the quality of life in Banteer. Thank you for the map and especially for the highlighting which channelled the adjudicator in the appropriate directions. The photographs were also most helpful in giving a village sense before arrival and these photos show that you have support transcends the generation gap, or should that read 'the generation gaps'. Your constant mention of the Youth Club means that you are bringing the most volatile and impressionable generation with you and well done. It is important that you engage actively with the various influential bodies and as a result that much of your funding comes through these sources. Well done on engaging with the school. The results of the survey work show that this liaison with the school is mutually beneficial. Now to what is meant as a gentle piece of advice: when compiling your submission take care to make reference to material relevant to the TidyTowns Competition. Do not burden the adjudicator with information that does not impact on this competition. Thank you for your action plan. This material would have been more convincing if it included actual time deadlines for work planned, the names of the agencies you would engage with to achieve your aims and the costs involved.

The Built Environment:

Banteer is a beautiful village to happen upon. The village centre is most attractive. Buildings are bright and confident looking. The Old Coach Inn is screened very well while the White County Inn, the Church and Church grounds, Tarrant's garage and the Post Office join together to bring a colourful and busy village atmosphere to Banteer. The buildings such as the school and the Community Centre are very well presented. The railway station has played a major role in the development of Banteer. It is proudly presented. 2007 seems to have been a busy year as you completed work on the theatre and on the Dr Pat memorial, two projects worthy of any town and both looking resplendent. The Dr Pat Memorial is a

proud legacy that you now leave to future generations. It took a while to find the theatre but, though closed, the journey was well worthwhile.

Landscaping:

There is evidence of careful landscaping everywhere the eye rests. The landscaping at the entrance to Glenwood Close is superb as is that along the school boundary. This landscaping is continued into the crèche and enhances the whole area. You can be justifiably proud of the work completed here. Lovely work done in the area of the Railway Station. You are making effective use of floral displays most attractively at the Church. The centre of town is most eye-catching. The landscaping on the Cork road adds to the welcome. Throughout the village one felt that great efforts are being made to bring colour as in the case of the roses. Well done. But remember with the village developing new opportunities will become obvious.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You are blessed to possess a wildlife amenity like Pondfield. To your credit you exploit the advantage. It is a haven for every age. The sportsfield completes the amenity campus and together this area would be the envy of any town.

Having the area surveyed for wildlife and wildlife habitats and publishing the results is a massive step forward. The display boards in the Pondfield are well presented, informative and beautifully presented. So what of the future. You mention the Green Flag for the school, very good. Maintenance at the Pondfield is also important but be on the look out for further challenges.

Litter Control:

There are twice weekly litter picks for six months of the year. Great commitment. The village looked very clean. Thankfully no evidence of dumping was found anywhere. While there was some litter your work is paying dividends. It helps that you are involved in anti litter competitions. This participation shows that you are taking a proactive stance in your attack on litter. You might set targets for next year. Try to reduce the amount of litter collected than putting the emphasis on cleaning up the litter.

Waste Minimisation:

Delighted to see that the material collected on your litter clean-ups is segregated and that you have separate bins for collection day. As the village is growing there must be a need for your own Bring Bank as Millstreet is some distance away. Glad to see that the National School has its own composting facility. Continue to put pressure on the school to follow up on the Green Flag Status as this will help mould a waste reduction mentality in the whole community.

Tidiness:

There is so much about Banteer that is attractive and uplifting that any negative reaction is unworthy of the work you carry out on behalf of the village. Tidiness plays a major part in presenting a positive image. Lack of tidiness can suggest neglect. There is no neglect in your case but you may need a more co-ordinated weed management control plan.

Keep an eye on grass verges. At times one gets the impression that this work is being done for the competition only. Kerbside weeds suggest sporadic treatment. An area around the Railway needs treatment. If there is a possibility to bury the cables in town it would improve what is a fine skyscape enhanced by the trees.

Residential Areas:

Banteer is fortunate in the beautiful houses and housing estates it possesses. While Ard na Sí is still a work in progress one can sense that this will bring a further dimension to village life. The estate beside the school looks most attractive. Glenwood looks beautiful but kerbside weeds detract from the cared-for image. It is important that open spaces are mown frequently so that the hay does not build up. Glenwood Close benefits from the landscaping throughout. Clonmeen Road is an attractive vista into town. The yellow houses fronted by the stone walls are a joy and the trailing aubrietia contributes to the village appearance. Eaglais View Estate is another residential highlight with fine mature landscaping. The many private houses contribute to the gentle colour of village life. These houses exude pride of place.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

A welcome sign on arrival is a sign of welcome. A great start to a visit to your village. The approach roads

into the village are generally welcoming and refreshing. The hedges on the Kanturk Road are a delight and well maintained.

Possibly the most attractive route into town is along the Cork road.

The signage to Dr Pat and the Pondfield was discreet but effective. With so much work on-going in the village it is understandable that road surfaces suffer. You will keep an eye on road verges and decide on your particular philosophy.

General Impression:

Having gone through your submission one was eager to visit Banteer. The first impression is that this village is being cared for with affection. And then the village unfolds. The village square or centre was a wonderful experience. The Pondfield was a surprise and delight. To find Dr Pat's birthplace was another delight. The pride one felt from the submission is expressed throughout the village. You have notable flagship projects such as Pondfield, The Glen Theatre and the new memorial. Until you come up with your next big project look after the nooks and the crannies. Well done .