

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kanturk** Ref: **652**
County: **Cork(North)** Mark: **205**
Category: **C** Date(s): **09/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	18
Litter Control	50	23
Waste Minimisation	20	4
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	205

Overall Development Approach:

Congratulations to the Kanturk Tidy Towns Committee for participating in the Tidy Towns Competition 2008. Thank you for your submission and for the inclusion of your town map which was helpful. It would benefit your marks in the competition if you were to include a 3-5 Year Plan from your committee outlining the projects you intend undertaking in the immediate and medium term, showing how these projects will be funded and stating the agencies you will work with in carrying out your plans. It is noted that yours is a relatively small committee in a big town so great credit is due to you for your obvious hard work and commitment to Kanturk. You list the bodies you work with. In what way do you engage with these various groups? In what way does your committee benefit from this interaction? Your involvement with the school is very important in assisting to mould attitudes. Could you encourage the school to pursue the Green Flag Status? Kanturk is a beautiful town, in an idyllic setting but undergoing much change at present. The greater the influence you can exert over these changes the better for the town. Hence the need for definable, achievable projects to sustain your efforts and to ensure a worthy outcome from the inevitable change that will take place.

The Built Environment:

On an amble through Kanturk one is immediately taken by the many fine period buildings and period residences. But Kanturk is obviously a town in transition and the unoccupied buildings are testimony to this. Unfortunately these buildings are often in need of freshening and with their deteriorating frontages they detract from what could be a uniquely attractive town appearance. Herein lies a challenge for your committee also and it is promising to note that you are liaising with the Council in regard to unoccupied buildings. Too often well presented period buildings are diminished by another period building alongside which is falling into disrepair. At the same time there is much redevelopment in the town and attractive redevelopment at that which augurs well for the future. The area around Supervalu is well appointed and has a refreshing urban buzz. There are many exciting shop fronts as The Vintage and The Vineyard, Thomas Brownes and the

lovely simple style of Beginnings. The built environment of Kanturk expresses the sense of history of the people. The grotto is well maintained and an attractive reminder of the enthusiasm of previous generations in Kanturk to express their reverence for their religion. That reverence is now expressed in the works done to improve the area around the Church. This area now has a fresh cared-for appearance. One senses a pride in the town from the maintenance of the hospital car park, for instance. One senses a respect for times past in the memorial to the people who died in the workhouse, in the memorials to your famous ladies, Edel Quinn and Hannah Sheehy Skeffington. The Unity Stone expresses a pride in your town name. The Garda barracks looks very well as does the building alongside. This adjudicator was impressed by the use of Gaeilge in shop names. Sólás and Éalú were most appropriate for the businesses they described and Siopa Búistéir is a name we can all relate to. In this regard the Credit Union was disappointing. There are fine walls throughout the town which are a feature of Kanturk. A unique town with a river to match that uniqueness.

Landscaping:

Wonderful work has been done over the years along the river. The many seats invite people to come, sit and enjoy. The landscaping is attractive and relaxing. As in any thriving town there will be industrial plants which, by their nature, may not be attractive to the eye. Hence the need for good screening as you have with fine trees as on the way from Mallow. While there is a lot of clutter around the Maxol station a commendable effort is being made by the owners to brighten up the area with floral displays of all sorts. The Flower Club should be an immense resource for you if you can bring them on board. The newer estates are most fortunate in their attractive and colourful landscaping, with so much emphasis on the entrance to the estate. Many business use floral displays to improve the colour of their fronts. There is a great example of floral decoration in a town residence by the cinema. A more co-ordinated effort would benefit the main streets. The Flower Club might be the way forward here also.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The proposed revitalisation of Greenane Park is a worthy project. The presence of a man fishing suggested that there are plenty of fish down there. A survey of the fish in the river would be a worthwhile project. You might enlist the assistance of the schools in this endeavour and display the results on display boards along the river bank. The river is the central wildlife attraction in Kanturk. At present it is being exploited in the Park area where it brings peace and relaxation right there in the centre of a busy street. The seating and pathways make it a welcoming haven and by all appearances it is well used. Kanturk possesses many beautiful trees which again attract wildlife. The survey mentioned in relation to the fishlife could be replicated with the birdlife and displayed. There is great potential for developments in this section for Kanturk.

Litter Control:

You mention the major clean-up that was undertaken earlier in the year. Well done. The fact that nearly 200 people were involved suggests that firstly you have great support at your disposal and, secondly, that the need for the clean-up was great. Litter control is a problem in Kanturk. Cigarettes butts are a major problem outside some businesses. Green Flag Status for the school would make the younger generation more alert and that influence would radiate outwards. You have identified the worst black spots. Good. In order to reduce the quantities of litter you have to increase awareness of the problem. Another project but an important one. It is dreadful to see a young couple out walking and dropping their paper when a bin was right there beside them. So the presence/absence of bins is not the key problem. Awareness or lack of awareness may be a greater problem and one that takes longer to solve. Hence the need for planning and setting targets.

Waste Minimisation:

The adjudicator did not find the Bring Bank. Even if it has not yet arrived it is important that this facility is on its way. In a town this size it is a necessity. Point it up on the map for next year. It could benefit your committee to study the booklet 'Race Against Waste'. It would stimulate new waste elimination projects for you. The emphasis in this section is not on litter control but on minimising waste in your community.

Tidiness:

There are so many beautiful spots around Kanturk that look well. The town park is the jewel in the crown. One would have to mention O'Brien Street also. Many estates also present a neat image. But it is difficult for a town like Kanturk to present an overall image of the tidy town due to construction and due to the neglected state of many of the buildings in the town. Your determination to tackle the Greenore area is commendable. Your liaising with Cork County Council regarding derelict buildings is also important. Once again there is need for targeted planning.

Residential Areas:

In general Kanturk can boast of beautiful houses and of attractive housing estates. There are fine private houses on all approach roads to town. These are vibrant, colourful residences with carefully designed landscaping at the front. The residents of the estate can also be proud of the image they help create for Kanturk. Aisling Gheal on Percival Street is a fine new estate with an imposing entrance. Dún an Óir is possibly the standard by which all others might measure their performance. In some cases there is need for better maintenance of open spaces as in a lovely estate called Highfield Crescent. At the other end of the scale an estate on the Cork Rd needs assistance in the maintenance of its existing landscaping and in the maintenance of its open spaces.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

There are beautiful approach roads into Kanturk which arouse expectation of great things to come. The Mallow approach is particularly impressive. Along the route from the Golf Club the fronts of houses express pride, there is an abundance of trees and the area is well maintained. The footpath out of town in the direction of the castle needs to be made more pedestrian friendly. The same holds true of the footpath on the Newmarket approach road. Walls are so important to the presentation of Kanturk as in the beautiful stone wall on the Freemount side of town. The street system in town certainly facilitates the flow of traffic, despite many obvious difficulties. In particular the flow in the area around the cinema seems to be free flowing.

General Impression:

Kanturk has it all: river, bridges, mature trees, setting, steep hills into town, heritage buildings. It just needs to come together. The work is ongoing but obvious. Kanturk also has Edel Quinn: there are pilgrimages to places which do not have half the drawing power of Edel Quinn.