

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Banteer** Ref: **93**
County: **Cork(North)** Mark: **267**
Category: **B** Date(s): **09/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	40
The Built Environment	50	34
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	36
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	267

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you very much for the completed entry form and all the supporting material. I note you have 18 full time members with approximately forty other helpers from other organisations. You are also getting support from the Green Theatre Company, Banteer Community Child Care and others. It is positive that you have so many meetings and there is a great community spirit amongst the people when they give up some of their spare time to attend meetings. I notice that you also do some litter picks from February to April. Well done to those that did some work for you free of charge on the stonework. You are getting good support from IRD Duhallow, Fás and RSS and it is great to receive the €5,000 from Village renewal. The newsletters and public meetings are effective ways of getting your message across to the wider community. I note the school undertook wildlife research and the findings are incorporated on the display board. It is great that you find the competition encourages the committee to operate in a controlled and professional manner, and you find the reports to be useful. The Show and sports are truly fine social occasions.

The Built Environment:

Banteer Community centre is well presented and was crisp and clean with a spacious car park, and it sported attractive hanging baskets. The School is very well maintained with attractive lawns and trees. The church is visually striking at the corner and displayed defining architectural qualities. It was picturesque with great entrance gates and I liked the statue of Our Lady and the floral displays. The business houses are well presented and decorative. The extensive garage looked very well. The railway station is an attractive stone building. The private houses and public buildings blend in nicely.

Landscaping:

The attention to landscaping is outstanding and the town had a fresh and bright appearance to it. Thank you for the photographs and they show the great progress that has been achieved. The tubular railing outside

Tarrants is unusual and decorative and enhances the appearance of the approach road. There is an attractive traditional stone wall outside the car park of The White County Inn and it is very well restored and nicely pointed. The crossroads is very well set off with the shrubberies and I adored the traditional water pump with a neat railing erected on top of the low wall was put in place by Banteer Tidy Towns Committee in 2003. The IRD funded map at the crossroads is informative and attractive. The Mount Hillary details are very interesting and gives good directions for the loop walks and information on the different routes that can be taken from Banteer. I admired the grand display of flowers growing on a stone wall outside a private house near the school. Other displays of landscaping of different types in different areas make Banteer a bright and colourful town and most pleasant to stroll around and admire. I could see the "footsteps" of imaginative and enthusiastic people all over the town, and you can be justly proud of Banteer – well done. The sculpture for Pat O'Callaghan is beautifully incorporated in that fine stone wall; it's a magnificent sculpture and rightly pays tribute to a great athlete. Pondfield is a great amenity; it was impressively laid out and landscaped.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

There is an abundance of wildlife all around Banteer with those great stone walls and mature trees, and Pondfield is a haven for wildlife. It was great to see a group of ducks going about their business. I note you intend to do a survey of the fish life in Pondfield. Bird boxes were admired in the park. The splendour of Pondfield would rival any similar development of this size in Ireland.

Litter Control:

Some litter was seen in just a few isolated areas, but I appreciate you cannot be on guard at all times for this situation. You are paying a lot of attention to litter and I saw a number of well serviced litter bins around the town.

Waste Minimisation:

I was very surprised to find that there is not a bring bank in Banteer, and this is most unusual. You state you promote composting in the schools. You could assist and encourage the school to try and attain the green flag status.

Tidiness:

The town had a fresh and tidy appearance and it was noticeable that the area was recently sprayed to kill off the unwanted growths. Part of the side wall of the Coach Inn looked a bit faded and could do with a "face lift". A derelict site was to be seen. The railway sports this spectacular stone wall and tarmac and this busy place was spotlessly clean as well as the area around the phone box with the impressive stone wall behind it.

Residential Areas:

Eagles View is a substantial housing estate, and I was impressed with the way that it is spaced out with large green areas. Glen Close is compact and tidy. Banteer community childcare house is very well maintained in good condition and expertly landscaped. Glenwood estate sports very attractive houses on an open plan style. It has great lawns and shrubberies. The council houses down from the school are well maintained with a good array of trees outside. There are beautiful private houses all around the town which are kept in wonderful condition with fine displays of shrubs, trees, flowers and lawns and this adds considerably to the fine displays of the Tidy Towns committee.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

All the approach roads to the town are in very good condition and the signposts are clean and distinct. The landscaping and grass verges give a welcoming effect on arrival, and the feeling continues around the town with the different aspects of landscaping and stone walls

General Impression:

On my first visit to Banteer I had a natural curiosity of what was ahead, and I was therefore pleasantly surprised at the beauty of the town. It is obvious that work is ongoing in your area for many years to get the place so orderly and picturesque. You can hand this place over to new people with great satisfaction when the time comes – but please not for many years to come. Well done.