

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kanturk** Ref: **652**
County: **Cork(North)** Mark: **216**
Category: **C** Date(s): **08/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	18
Litter Control	50	25
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	216

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you very much for the typed up entry form and supporting material. I note that seven members are nominated by the two sponsoring bodies, Kanturk Chamber of Commerce and Kanturk and District Community Council. There is good commitment for the weekly litter collections on Tuesdays and the meetings every fortnight. The regular meetings with the County Council engineers are very positive, and I note you have liaison meetings with the schools and Floral club. You are doing great work by being involved with Cork County Council, IRD Duhallow, Fás, KDCC, KCC, Supervalu, Cope Foundation and local businesses and schools. The local people are well informed of your activities by the Local radio C 103, the Corkman newspaper and the Catholic parish weekly. It is very worthwhile to be involved with the local schools and you could assist them to obtain the green flag status. You have very good experiences of the Tidy Towns Competitions when it provides an impetus to improve your local environment. I note you have comprehensive plans for further developments in Kanturk. Your overall development approach is good.

The Built Environment:

Scoil Nasunta Kanturk is brightly coloured and tastily decorated with nice plantings of trees and shrubs, and a suitable tarmac area. The Credit Union House is an elegant stone building. The Church of the Immaculate Conception is a splendid church with spacious car parking and is tastily landscaped all around, but unfortunately, this great structure is marred somewhat with a lot of weeds growing in the gutters. In the grounds there is a well maintained graveyard. I liked the public toilets which were clean and fresh on the outside and well serviced inside. Scoil Mhuire is well maintained and well landscaped and I admired the small Grotto alongside. The Convent of Our Lady of Mercy is nicely secluded with impressive gates and railings with suitable landscaping. There is a very high standard of tidiness and décor in a lot of the shop premises dispersed around the town, and some are excellent in particular the Park Lounge and bar, Supervalu, AIB with some colourful window boxes of flowers and Duane's pharmacy. The Caird Scoil is well maintained school

building but the road by the pavement needs to be repainted. I read your ambitious plans for the courthouse and this will be a good amenity when it is refurbished. The recycling centre is an impressive layout and is superbly fenced off. The Garda station and the hospital looked well.

Landscaping:

Are you right for Tuesday night! There are some great displays of landscaping throughout Kanturk. You have undertaken additional landscaping this year which will further enhance this bright and cheerful town. There is an attractive arrangement of trees in the area across the road from Kanturk Motor spares; the green here is very well kept and fresh and there is a good view of the river down below. Along the side of the road at this point there is an attractive stone wall, and a great display of flowers were on top of this wall in high up baskets. The Grotto near the recycling plant nestles peacefully and is visually striking.

The river walk is a really special area with beautiful trees, nice seating with a great stone wall. The walk is a very relaxing amenity. In this area the grass was nicely manicured. The newly planted trees here ensure a continuity of trees for the future. The two lots of marble chairs and tables are very appropriate garden furniture, but I was surprised to find that the table tops had been removed and were left nearby in the grass, and I hope this is for maintenance reasons rather than otherwise. As I walked along I admired the unusual timber Barret's chair. The small bridges are beautiful. At the river walk there is an assortment of suitable shrubs. Other garden chairs were admired. From outside Barret's bar there is a spectacular view of the river looking down to the bridge. Other tastily displays of landscaping gave a great fresh feeling to the town

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The planned notice boards setting out the details of the different fish in Kanturk is a good approach. Good luck with the bird survey. There is an abundance of wildlife in all those wonderful trees and stone walls around the town. It was charming to see a group of wild ducks merrily swimming along in the river.

Litter Control:

The control of litter is generally good. Some litter was present in a few places, near the mart, and out near the recycling centre which perhaps fell off a lorry, but it was not a real problem. The children are to be complimented for their assistance with the picking up of litter and this makes them more aware of tidiness in the future. Your "Tuesday nights" are paying off.

Waste Minimisation:

The new waste facility is a wonderful addition to the town, and is developed to a very high standard. I note you have some plants to engage with the schools.

Tidiness:

The two disused petrol pumps near Dún Na óir and the garage in dereliction really spoil this well kept area. Just a few other derelict sites were noticed, but there is not a lot you can do about these situations in private property. The control of weeds was good nearly everywhere and only small pockets of weeds were on some approach roads. Unfinished work on housing estates is problem in Kanturk and in many other locations and is a sign of the times we live in.

Residential Areas:

Dún Na Oir housing estate, for me, is the brightest new development in Kanturk, with high quality of workmanship and planning in evidence. I admired in particular the finger signs and landscaping plus the children's playground. Egmont Woods is a housing estate, well planned and laid out, but unfinished. St Patrick's Place has an array of council houses well maintained. Aisling Ghael has a most impressive entrance with good houses and spacious green area. Other housing estates were of good planning and layout. There is a spectacular array of private houses around the town and the outskirts sporting magnificent displays of flowers, trees, shrubs and lawns and their splendour adds considerably to the wonderful display put in place by the tidy towns committees. The town houses are mixed in well with the business houses and brightly painted and decorated.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

All the approach roads to the town are in great condition and with very good surfaces. The bridges are good attractive features. The back areas of the town are well developed. The signposting was clean, clear and distinct. The roadside fencing is very secure and there are some very good traditional stone walls on the entrances to the town.

General Impression:

This was the first time that I stopped in Kanturk and I very much enjoyed my journeys around the town. This a busy town, but the motorists are fairly well catered for with suitable car parking and traffic management. You are making good progress with presenting the town as a tidy town and your ambitious plans will make Kanturk a wonderful place to live in. Well done.