

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Banteer** Ref: **93**
County: **Cork(North)** Mark: **305**
Category: **B** Date(s): **20/06/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	43	43
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	38	39
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	42	43
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	37	38
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	14	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	63	64
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	31	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	32	32
TOTAL MARK	450	300	305

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Banteer is very welcome to the 2017 Tidy Towns competition. You have a very impressive community involvement and despite Banteer being in the village category having 26 volunteers to call on is very impressive. All this hard work was very evident on the adjudication visit day with everywhere looking very well maintained and tended. You also clearly have lots of local support which must be very encouraging. Well done. We always encourage committees to make a three to five year plan for their area so that they can both focus on specific projects and see all that they have achieved. Perhaps this might be something Banteer Tidy Towns might consider in the future.

Built Environment and Streetscape / An Timpeallacht Thógtha agus Sráid-dreacha:

Banteer is a very attractive village in a beautiful natural setting with several lovely buildings including the beautiful church, the railway station, the White Country Inn and the Glen Theatre building – all great examples of Irish vernacular buildings. The Screen Fence decorated with old hub caps painted as flowers is terrific! We could find no mention of it in your entry form although it's marked on the map – it's a brilliant example of re-using items and beautifying a place that maybe was not so interesting previously! Brilliant imaginations at work – well done.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The National School garden was an absolute delight – again more wonderful imagination shown in re-using items not to mention all the gorgeous colours that must be so appealing to the pupils. The Muintir na Tíre Best Garden prize is well deserved – congratulations! You've done a lot of work in this category over the past year with several new shrub and flower beds. It's great to see you are taking cognisance of the importance of growing plants for biodiversity. Make sure to get your free copy of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan from the National Biodiversity Data Centre (www.biodiversityireland.ie) as it has lots of advice and guidelines for community groups in relation to various projects including the right sort of plants to use etc.

Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fiadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádúrtha:

You have a wonderful natural amenity in the Pondfield area and it was being well-used on the day it was visited. The use of weedkiller all along the Banteer Bridge over the Glen River at Sean Abha is a shame as this is detrimental to the biodiversity of wildflowers and pollinator species. Unless the stonework is being damaged by Ivy or shrub roots, the use of herbicide is unnecessary, especially as many wall-growing plants such as toadflax, forgetmenot and small ferns are pretty additions to the character of such places. However, much pollinator-friendly work has been done in Banteer N.S. garden with some great plants listed as well as the pollinator-friendly planting in beds at St Fursey's Terrace, Nadd Rd and the Sportsfield.

Sustainable Waste and Resource Management / Bainistiú Acmhainní agus Dramhaíola Inbhuanaithe:

The re-use of lots of different things from Cable Reels to hub caps in the school garden and the Screen fence are very commendable and a great example to others to see what can be done with some paint and brilliant imaginations! It's also great to hear that the pupils of Banteer N.S. are working on their Water Green Flag – they'll have lots of useful tips to pass on to the rest of the community after their hard work.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Banteer was looking spick and span during the adjudication visit reflecting all your hard work between Litter picks and Litter Challenges in this area. It's clear that you have the support of all the community in getting this work done.

Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:

The housing estates were all visited and all were well maintained with plenty of trees planted although there was unnecessary use of herbicide along grass edges and under trees in Ard na Sí. There is scope in some of the estates for the planting of some climbing plants along some of the concrete block boundary walls of some of the green areas. Climbers such as Ivy and Honeysuckle are of huge biodiversity value as well as making a grey space more attractive.

Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:

The trees and hedges that line the approach roads to Banteer all give a lovely impression as you enter the village. All the roadsigns were clean and clear.

Concluding Remarks: