

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Bantry** Ref: **666**
County: **Cork(West)** Mark: **320**
Category: **A** Date(s): **01/07/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	46	46
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	44	44
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	44	44
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	32	34
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	18	18
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	57	59
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	34	34
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	41	41
TOTAL MARK	450	316	320

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Welcome to the SuperValu National Tidy Towns 2017 and thank you for this year's submission. It was a pleasure to visit Bantry and witness all the town has to offer residents and visitors. The map included was very clear and helped the adjudication process notwithstanding that it was not colour-coded. you mention a three-year plan but a copy was not submitted, make sure to include this each year. Regular meetings with the town engineer to discuss priorities for the town are fruitful and we note the wide network of support groups and bodies available to the Tidy Towns committee; successful funding is likewise noted favourably. Well done on use of social media in addition to the more traditional methods of communication. The community in Bantry have an obvious commitment to the quality of their environment and community development. The Heritage Trail is a most enriching experience.

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

Bantry boasts a handsome stock of two and three storey buildings many of which are presented to the highest standard particularly those overlooking and within a short walk of Wolfe Tone Square; the standard of presentation diminishes somewhat the further one moves away from the main thoroughfare and a number of buildings could look better, perhaps a survey of the building stock would be helpful. Those premises that were admired include the Mogul Indian Restaurant; Sunville House; the Library and its heritage panels (some of the seats here or could be refurbished). Wolfe Tone Square looks wonderful. The involvement of the Pulse Art Group in the refurbishment of Marino Street has been invaluable to the successful outcome here. Discourage the use of roller security shutters and full window stickers on shopfront windows as these diminish the quality of their streetscapes. Bantry's built environment is complemented by many beautiful public amenity spaces and easy access to the natural environment.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The 1916 Memorial space at the Mill Race is an appropriate and beautiful space in this section of the town. The quality and maintenance of landscaping throughout Bantry is of the highest standard particularly around the water feature and in Wolfe Tone Square. The Spirit of Love Garden is excellent in design and concept and it is delightful to note that this scenic seated amenity area is appreciated and much used by young and old. The completion of the Peace Garden will further enhance Bantry's amenity status for recreation and wildlife; the Sea Garden is an exciting initiative also; try to ensure universal accessibility to all new amenity developments; visit www.universaldesign.ie/built-environment. Continue to be mindful of the requirements of wildlife in your choice of plant species and choose native where feasible, and of course plant for all seasons of the year.

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

Japanese Knotweed was spotted growing around the Mill Race and we note your continuous battle to have it eradicated from Bantry. There are exciting initiatives that fit under this heading also; the Peace Garden which will be the end point of a Wildlife Sculpture Trail; the Sea Garden featuring a variety of elements and proposed work to develop the Inner Harbour as a Wetland Park. Congratulations on the bio-diversity programme in progress and the Bug Hotels, up-date us next year on its progress. The Wildflower Trail is a wonderful project too and the use of recycled materials is laudable. The Beicin Walk and Outdoor Gym are fine facilities. Burial grounds enjoy a good standard of maintenance.

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

We wish you every success in bringing Bantry's Community Garden to completion by 2018. Hopefully it too will be universally accessible. Water management for landscaping is excellent with the river being used as a resource and the tiered stands being self-watering. An energy management project might now be initiated, perhaps with a travel theme. Are schools involved in the Green Schools programme and has the committee considered Green Homes for a project under this heading? The segregation of waste is favourably noted as is Bantry's recycling depot. Keep in mind that for optimum performance projects that involve prevention of waste at source are best.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Weekly clean-ups and litter picks by volunteers in addition to participating in the Annual Spring Clean, plus vigilance regarding illegal fly posters and more accounts for the (almost) litter free appearance of Bantry during adjudication, congratulations. Some beer cans featured at the Mill Race plus a Coca-Cola bottle and a crisp bag; litter in the foreshore area at the head of the bay near Wolfe Tone Square consisted mainly of plastic bottles. Unfortunately, a woman spotted dumping garden waste here. Has litter been analysed for type, source, frequency and location? This information can help with the formulation of a more targeted litter strategy with the goal of cutting down on the number of clean-up necessary. A lot of overhead service cables and old poles along streets away from the town centre look untidy. Allowances have been made for any untidiness caused by current construction work. The dog fouling problem is being tackled in a new way (dog-loos) in Dingle, there's no feedback yet on effectiveness but we will maintain a watchful eye.

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

The majority of Bantry's on-street town centre terraced dwellings are beautifully painted and maintained. The committee is rightly proud of presentations in Market St, Chapel Street, Blackrock Road and of course as noted above Marino Street. It is good to note the existence of many resident associations for estates and look after their own areas. No doubt the Tidy Towns Competition organised by the committee under this heading plays a significant role in the overall high standard of presentation. Encourage residents to maintain their roadside boundary walls to the same high standard as their dwellings and gardens and to keep a watchful eye on areas immediately outside of their own walls

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

Road and footpath surfaces throughout the town are presented to a to a mixed standard and no doubt remedial work has been discussed with the town engineer. Car parking appears to be orderly and well catered for both in designated car parks and along some streets; the car park at the head of the bay near the Square is nicely surfaced and lined. The entrance to Bantry from the Cork road which features the Spirit of Love Garden and has had a major makeover is an excellent introduction to the town. Construction work on the Glengarrif Road is noted also. The eradication of Japanese Knotweed here if slow is nonetheless invaluable.

Concluding Remarks:

Bantry is a delightful town with a handsome built environment and many recreational amenity opportunities for all.