

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **SHANNON**
County : **CLARE**
Category : **E**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 05-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	42
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21
Landscaping	40	29
The Built Environment	40	29
Litter Control	40	31
Tidiness	20	14
Residential Areas	30	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	300	217

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for submitting such a detailed entry form outlining your successes and challenges to date. Shannon town is now benefiting from excellent design and development of many years ago. You are unique in Ireland and the way the town has evolved and at the same time continued an International Airport and extensive Industrial Estate reflects great credit to all concerned. In particular, the amount of tree planting and developed open spaces and magnificent walks has given the town an advantage over most other towns and cities.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

You are well positioned to benefit from this new category, for which valuable marks are allotted. The Shannon estuary is renowned for wildlife and you should highlight this in promoting Tidy Towns. You should contact the I.W.C. who will be happy to co-operate with you. Shannon is ideal for an inter-schools project on the wildlife of Shannon Town. You should then refer to the wildlife in any promotional literature you are using. It may take some time but should yield results over a period.

LANDSCAPING

This is one of your strong points and the abundance of flowers, shrubs and trees in all parts of the town lessens the impact of so many buildings on the environment. The management of open spaces is excellent and there was a welcome absence of broken trees. The treatment of the entrance to the Shannon Free Zone is superb and projects a very favourable image at this strategic junction. The landscaping at Smithstown estate, though good is not of the same standard. Other areas of note include the airport approach and entrance. The early planted trees have now matured and give the town an air of permanence. The new park development is commendable and should be signposted.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Being a new town you do not have the advantages or disadvantages of period buildings and consequently there are no derelict buildings to contend with. Some commercial buildings excel i.e. G.P.A. Oaklands Hotel, both of which have excellent landscaping and main entrances. The schools, churches, Garda Station and Fire Station all looked well again this year, although the Comprehensive College would benefit from fresh painting. It is noticed there is some development work being carried out at Scoil Phobail Chaimín Naofa, which should be well landscaped when finished. In general all public buildings are well presented. The signage, especially in the many estates is excellent, well designed and positioned - the use of so many Irish Names is praiseworthy. However, some of these signs do need cleaning and occasional replacements.

LITTER CONTROL

You have scored well in this category and litter control throughout the town was very good. Some estates did have small amounts but nothing excessive. The Shopping Centre in particular was well controlled, despite the busy trading. Litter control at the airport is commendable.

TIDINESS

Weed control in the town centre is good, except for a small amount around the Community College. You have a problem between the two roundabouts on the Newmarket on Fergus approach which is quite apparent and will need to be tackled by influences greater than a Tidy Towns Committee. The link road to Smithstown is good on surface but the margins are overgrown. The welcome sign to Shannon on the main road needs improved presentation. Generally there is an air of tidiness throughout. The problem mentioned last year at Drumgeely will probably be solved over the next year. Already the apartments are being renovated and are improving.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

You have some problems in this area especially at Ross Bracken which is in need of repairs and improved presentation. Some houses on the hill are excellent and many with well landscaped gardens. You have great variety in house sizes ranging from one to three storey. It would appear that the grass is being cut regularly but some estates have gone further with collective effort.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

This category presents further challenge for you as many buildings and houses have side and back entrances that are quite exposed to public view. This applies to Industrial and Residential buildings. Car parks are well presented with good traffic discipline. It is also noticed that more than average entrances have access facilities for the disabled. Your two approach roads are well presented and the principal one has some excellent tree planting on both sides. The problem on the Newmarket-on-Fergus approach has already been mentioned.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Thanks to the design, the town's three distinctive entities: industrial, residential and commercial are well defined. Traffic control is good and all areas have good environmental support. Most visitors will see but a very small part of Shannon and will not be conscious of the whole scale of the town. Keep up the good work with the residents and continue your close liaison with the various statutory bodies. Your principal approach will need continued vigilance and upkeep. In this respect you will need to avoid excessive advertising signs which seem to be creeping up on this approach. Well done on a good performance.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (03/08/96)

This adjudicator had not visited Shannon for about five years and since then there have been several obvious improvements. The maturing of trees on the main thoroughfares now gives an attractive boulevard effect and planting of various kinds, especially on higher ground, has removed a certain bleakness which used to be present. This shows good planning many years ago. It is good to see marshlands untampered with in a number of places. There was quite an amount of kerbside weed on second adjudication day - surprising in such a well-kept town - in the locality of the swimming pool and schools and also in some estates. (The problem referred to by the first adjudicator struck the second as a small-scale version of what may be seen beside some South American airports; unfortunately it probably gives an accurate impression of the state of our society). The improvements are most impressive and disclose a real community spirit.