

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **SHANAGOLDEN**  
County : **LIMERICK**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 22-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14
Landscaping	40	27
The Built Environment	40	26
Litter Control	40	27
Tidiness	20	11
Residential Areas	30	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27
General Impression	10	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>183</b>

## Adjudicator's Comments

### OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Your completed questionnaire and clear map were most helpful on Adjudication Day. However (reading between the lines) it would appear from the former that perhaps you feel that co-operation between the Committee, Statutory bodies and the local community could be improved upon. The benefit to the town of a good working relationship between these three groups are obvious. Perhaps for next year's Competition, you could formulate a work programme in order to give everyone goals to achieve in the future and foster a pride in these accomplishments.

### WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

From your response to the questionnaire you would appear to believe that the town has no wildlife whatsoever! But look around you - in your stream and in your hedgerows and trees. Perhaps the best approach to this issue would be to contact local environmental groups and experts who could advise you and provide you with the information you need. You can then identify the wildlife habitats of your environs in order to see what varieties of animals, birds, fish and plantlife these attract. You could then get the local schoolchildren involved in this project - studying the wealth of wildlife in their own backyard!

### LANDSCAPING

Great efforts had obviously been made in this category, especially in terms of public spaces. The graveyard and old ruined church looked very well with their well maintained green spaces to the front and most attractive stone boundary walls. Perhaps some tree planting would enhance the spaces still further? Some weeding appeared to be necessary to the gravelled car park area. Your dedication to the promotion of stone wall building throughout the town and its environs is to be commended. The hundreds of yards of same were admired, as was the planting of beds of wallflowers at the base of road signs. Indeed all over the town there was evidence of great industry in the form of numerous stone turrets overflowing with colourful flowers and planting. The shrine also looked neatly presented. Perhaps more could be made of the riverside areas by the bridge - beside the pink house and diagonally opposite on other side of the bridge (it appeared to be quite weedy to a gravelled area here) which have immense potential as amenity areas. They would make ideal picnic/seating areas. In terms of landscaping to commercial premises, the forecourts to both Estuary and Nissan, although neat, looked quite bare and would benefit from a spot of greenery!

### THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The standard in this category was quite high with most public and commercial premises looking well on Adjudication Day. The Credit Union, Post Office, the Park pub and Spar all looked very fresh. Many of the shopfronts were very colourful - A. Nolan's in a rich terracotta colour, and the video shop in a bright pink are examples. The Cailin Ban restaurant was quite fresh with colourful hanging baskets, as was Madigan's family butchers, although the latter had a profusion of stickers in its window which gave it a rather cluttered appearance. There are some fine traditional shopfronts in the town, ONualan's being a particularly good example. Public buildings were for the most part presented to a high standard. The church and school and their boundary walls were quite fresh, although the gates to the latter appeared to badly require a fresh coat of paint. However, Shanagolden Parish Hall and boundary wall looked very grubby. Although most of the buildings behind the green looked fresh some of the houses need freshening up.

### LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was very good on Adjudication Day with none being evident at all along Main Street or generally throughout the town. However, quite a bit was noticeable at the bridge and in front of the school.

## TIDINESS

The overall appearance of the town on Adjudication Day was a tidy one. Weed control was generally quite good on the day. However, the kerbside outside the school was rather weedy. The railings of the tennis courts by the school looked quite rusty and neglected. Side areas and backyards should not be neglected when considering the overall presentation of the town, as, if they are untidy, they can give a bad impression. The empty site on the hill opposite the church presents an ideal opportunity for some enterprising individual. There were some bins and oil barrels beside the memorial cross which looked quite unfortunate. The Golden Vale creamery area looked quite bare and the backyard area was quite unsightly - perhaps its chainlink fence could be replaced with something giving a more permanent appearance, such as a stone wall or hedge. The old shed with the rusty rail to its sliding doors/gates also looked rather unsightly and the forecourt area looked quite overgrown.

## RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The houses of Shanagolden were a credit to their owners on the day. Great pride is quite obviously taken in the private residential properties of the town. Of particular note was a very fresh house opposite the school, which had obviously been converted from a shop. It looked most attractive in pink with a blue surround to the old shopfront. An especially lovely garden filled with lupins and roses was noted at a cottage with beautiful hanging baskets. The splendid stone cottages over the bridge, with brick surrounds to the windows and doors, were admired. As was the large house with the stone boundary wall beside them. There are also some very attractive houses and gardens beyond the town name-plate sign on the Newcastlewest Road. The derelict cottage by the bridge would be a real asset to the town if restored to its former glory. The Park View housing estate also looked very well - the houses were very fresh, and the banked common open space was nicely landscaped with new trees. All in all a magnificent effort in this category!

## ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The standard in this classification was also generally good. The Adjudicator was pleased to note that the potholes to the roadway outside the church had been filled-in. Along the Foynes/Tarbert road there appeared to be dead weeds to the base of the stone walls which had not been cleared away. Although the hedgerows and verges were well cut on the Newcastlewest road, the town name-plate sign was very grubby.

## GENERAL IMPRESSION

The town is one of great character with its streets meandering up and down. Great efforts had been made to present the town to its best advantage and a hearty congratulations are due to all those who had the enthusiasm to get involved. In preparation for next year's Competition, the Committee should concentrate on maintaining back areas and side yards which can all too easily be overlooked.