

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **CARRICKMACROSS**  
County : **MONAGHAN**  
Category : **D**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 19-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	42
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22
Landscaping	40	33
The Built Environment	40	28
Litter Control	40	27
Tidiness	20	12
Residential Areas	30	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>223</b>

## **Adjudicator's Comments**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Many thanks for your excellent submission together with your application form. As in previous years, the map was of great help and made it a joy to adjudicate your town. No need to speak to the Carrickmacross Tidy Towns Committee about a focused approach but suffice it to say that in setting such standards as to be the National Winners last year, you have to excel not only yourself but everyone else to whom you have imparted your enthusiasm. It was good to note other towns visiting you for advice and help.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Your adjudicator was delighted to note that the Wildlife Ranger for the area is already involved with you. Encourage him to give you information plaques and signposting regarding the variety of wildfowl etc. at Lisanisk Lake. Do not over prettify the shore of the lake, allow people to meander through it in its natural setting, make it accessible and informative and you will garner valuable marks under this category next year.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The very high standard of flowers and landscaping that you have set yourselves has already won you awards. The Kingscourt Road was particularly good, the junctions throughout the town area were lovely, the witty butterflies - an excellent way of alerting people to your involvement with their neighbourhood. It was also lovely to see the Tara Rose Boat and also noted was the Ballybay/Castleblayney Road junction, these were all excellent. Nice also to note that the developers are mindful to your needs, stone walls at Crann Nua Estate and the Drummand Vale development with the hedge still in situ was a very caring way of working on the part of the developers.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Your main street and shop front improvements were all noted. It is tremendous to see the commercial sector backing you up so well. Your adjudicator felt that the Lakelands Factory, the Fever Hospital and the Valley Filters area could have been better presented. The recreation centre was very forbidding, although it must be noted that a flower bed was being developed on the day of the adjudication. The Patrician School also was very flat in its appearance in marked contrast to the Inver College, just around the corner. The Texaco Garage on the Castleblayney Road and the Oriel Oil Company were textbook examples of such facilities responding very positively to the needs of a Tidy Towns Committee. Finally, two words of congratulations, The Emmet Park G. A. A. grounds were beautifully presented and the Garda Barracks was a tribute to the force, both of these in marked contrast to many other such facilities in the county.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter as such was not a problem in Carrickmacross. A small amount was noted at the Highfield Estate although there were bins in place. There was also some litter on the Crossmaglen Road near to the town signs. Your green and yellow scheme was very attractive and they could not be missed. Litter, therefore in the form of paper and plastic was not present on the day of adjudication.

### **TIDINESS**

In contrast, notwithstanding the comments on litter, tidiness was absent in many areas of Carrickmacross. The car parks at The Shirley Arms and at the E. S. B. presented untidily. All the gutters and many of the footpaths in the town needed a thorough sweeping. That is not to say that there was litter but rather cigarette butts, wispy grass, generally not as tidy as one would want in an award winning town. Your adjudicator would go as far to suggest that the main street needed power hosing on the paths. Also some flyposting on shopfronts was noted although your ingenious painting of the back of road signs

etc. is clearly working on the outlying roads.

#### RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The Highfield Estate, the terraces at Woodlands and the Clough Valley Estates were all noted for being excellent. It was lovely to see the play area at Clough Valley being painted and also the stone work here and at Lisanisk Lake was a very novel use of a local resource. The terraced houses on the Dundalk Road were also noted. Among the many private gardens, one notable, witty totem pole was noted on the Dundalk Road!

#### ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Generally the approach roads were in good condition, not over trimmed but nonetheless presenting a neat appearance. Road signs on the Kingscourt Road needed cleaning. The timber fencing on the Shercock Road appeared very untidy for want of a good strimming of weeds from underneath it. Screening is necessary for some of the factories on the approach roads and the derelict area behind the factories close to Crosby's Pitch and Putt was quite an eyesore. Also in this area a wire chain link fence on the left hand side as you come down into the town, past the Pitch and Putt could do with being removed. Within the town area itself, some untidy lanes were noted and back entrances to business premises. For the visitor or indeed local meandering around your town they deserve something better. The Fowl Market area together with the E. S. B. car park and the Local Authority housing adjacent is really your Achilles Tendon. This area needs to be addressed if you are going to stay in the prize-winning enclosure. In marked contrast, the sylvan quiet of Ivy Lane was absolutely charming and a joy so close to the town centre.

#### GENERAL IMPRESSION

By setting yourself the exemplary standards of last year you have to do even better. Pay more attention to the tiny detail and you will remain high in the award winners. You have a charming town that you are obviously proud of, both its prosperity and its beauty. Congratulations on the marvellous work you are doing.

#### SECOND ADJUDICATION (15/08/96)

The butterfly motif on the many flowerbeds are a nice touch. Perhaps the small undeveloped site beside the ESB shop could be developed as a wildlife garden. The children's playground and football area are being well maintained in Clough valley. It is a pleasure to note the ever increasing numbers of well presented shopfronts and the decreasing number of plastic signs. The newly refurbished hall at the end of the street across from Parnell Street is a grand achievement and infill residential properties here look particularly attractive also. The Daly Bros. premises and roadside boundary walls look especially well this year. Deighan's garage looks well also, well done! Could the redundant petrol frame be removed? The same point can be made in respect of a frame at McCartney's Garage closer to the town. Try to avoid clutter on footpaths outside of shop premises. Litter control was not quite as good on our second adjudication as it has been on our first. However, a street sweeper was noted at his work and the overall standard was very good. Don't forget to have all traces of building materials removed when construction work has ceased. A few residential properties on the Castleblaney Road were in need of attention in respect of their roadside boundary walls. The carpark down at the ESB shop was quite tidy this year and landscaped areas here are maturing well. Construction work in progress was noted. We look forward to the elimination of wirescape on the lower half of the main street and along Parnell Street. Approach roads were well presented on second adjudication also, well done!