

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 16-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	42	42
The Built Environment	40	30	29
Landscaping	40	29	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	21
Litter Control	40	32	31
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	24
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	219	217

Shannon, Co. Clare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for returning completed entry form and illustrated map of Shannon. You do not mention if you are working to an agreed plan or not. You have a very large area under adjudication extending to the Airport. The mix of developments is also most challenging for your committee, ranging from industrial to residential to landscaping and normal commercial activity. The great amount of tree planting continues to enhance the appearance of the town and planners of forty years ago have served Shannon well.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

You are unique in that all your buildings, apart from the airport are less than forty years old. However, many of the early buildings have now gone shabby and are in need of improved presentation. Similarly, many of the early built houses need continuing repairs and attention. The commercial buildings are very well presented and most seem to enjoy regular maintenance. Grass cutting in the Free Zone is very good and regular. Some buildings in this area i.e. G.P.A. have excelled in landscaping their environs and the whole area presented an image of neatness and care. Public buildings were well presented again this year, although the Community School would benefit from fresh painting. Halla an Bhaile is neat, but should have some colour in its environs by improved landscaping and perhaps a bed of roses. The Credit Union is a gem and well located. The Grass outside the Health Centre needs trimming. Paddy Power and Checkers Take Away are out of character and should tone down their signage. For the most part signage is good, but some estate identity signs need refurbishing.

LANDSCAPING

You have scored well again in this section this year. The great variety of flowers, shrubs and trees in all parts of the town are most praiseworthy. It is also acknowledged that grass cutting is very demanding in time and cost and you are coping well. Some of the schools have scope for further landscaping, but this should only be embarked upon if you can maintain them to a high standard. Approach roads are good and the area between the two roundabouts has improved. The problem here is far beyond the scope of a tidy towns committee but improvement works were observed on adjudication day. The area opposite Ballymurtagh estate entrance is problematic and recognised.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

As mentioned last year you have great opportunity for promoting and popularising wildlife in Shannon. The estuary in particular offers great scope for progress in this section. You should, in association with some of the schools, or perhaps a special project for transition pupils in the Comprehensive School, endeavour to

list the plethora of wildlife in this area.

LITTER CONTROL

Well done on your efforts here. While there are some small areas with litter in evidence i.e. the road up to the Airport Hotel and small quantities at the Rineanna Park, nevertheless the town for the most part was litter free.

TIDINESS

Untidiness is mostly represented in back areas in some of the housing estates. Also a little untidiness on the margins of the road leading down to Smithstown Industrial Estate. A couple of commercial operators in the Free Zone are allowing pallets to accumulate and cause untidiness. Some open spaces are in need of a clean up, but these mostly relate to undeveloped areas.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

In general houses are well presented and many have attractive landscaped gardens. The large flat complex area, at Drumgeely, though improved in recent years is not as well presented as the newer housing. The housing on the eastern side of the town centre is well maintained. Signage in general is good and every estate seems to be identified. The use of attractive names in Irish is praiseworthy.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The problems in this section relate to poorly presented back entrances, especially at some of the housing estates. Similarly, some of the rear and side entrances could, with little effort improve the appearance of these areas. The principal approach roads are well presented, but much of the signage related to commercial operators is poorly designed and badly spaced. Too many finger post signs on one pole are ineffective. Oaklands Hotel and the excellent landscaping present a very favourable image to Shannon on this approach. The rich colourful display of flower tubs on the main approach are excellent.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

You have maintained your standards and the new commercial developments are commendable including the Treaty Garage at this strategic location. Your approach roads including the road from the Airport are vital to the good image of Shannon. However, you have all the ingredients of a modern town and you are fortunate in having so many well developed walking areas and recreational facilities. Your challenge now is to keep your standards high and give some extra attention to the earlier buildings within the town. Another good performance by a new committee - well done.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (13/8/97)

The busy town of Shannon, as noted by the first adjudicator, is quite large and spread out and therefore the adjudicator appreciates the problems encountered in maintaining it to a consistently high standard. The approach roads to the town are

well landscaped despite the roadworks in progress on the Ennis approach to the town. Items of street furniture could have been improved upon. Signs for the housing estates including the Garog Housing Estate (although its open areas were well maintained) and Gleann na Smol Estate had signage that was badly stained with algae growth - weeds were also apparent to the latter. Weed control was a problem throughout the town, to the kerbside opposite the town centre, the kerbside beyond the Garog Estate, and in cobblelocked areas of pavement to the brick projecting landscaped beds to the base of columns at the town centre. Directional signage such as that to the vehicle registration office and car park were also quite badly stained. Perhaps some new design might be considered for bus shelters as they appear quite neglected and desolate at the moment. The Oak Wood Arms Hotel was well landscaped. The Health Centre and Garda Station were acceptable in their presentation, however, the boundary wall was quite stained. At the Cronan Park Estate some of the houses and boundary walls needed attention as they were quite grubby.