

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CARRICK-ON-SHANNON**
County : **LEITRIM**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 10-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	42	40
The Built Environment	40	30	29
Landscaping	40	30	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	19
Litter Control	40	25	26
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	26
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	218	213

Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The Carrick-on-Shannon Tidy Towns Committee deserve high praise for their developmental approach to the competition. It is some years since this adjudicator inspected Carrick-on-Shannon and the improvements which have been carried out since then have considerably enhanced the towns presentation. There is great community spirit and this is appreciated by your notable lists of sponsors, other state agencies and Leitrim County Council. It is noted that the Committee are now in touch with Roscommon County council and hopefully some support will be forthcoming. Your 3/5 Year Plan is extremely well presented and thanks are due to the committee for the excellent photographs, beautiful town map, tourist trail booklet and the completed questionnaire. Well done!

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The presentation of many of the buildings in Carrick-on-Shannon is exemplary. St Marys R.C. Church is a fine building with a wonderful display of shrubs. St Georges Church and grounds are lovely (grass cuttings should be removed). The Community School and grounds are well maintained, St Ciarans is also worthy of comment. The buildings on the bypass notably the Garda Station, FAS and the new Courthouse are well presented. The Bush Hotel has excellent floral displays. St Georges Terrace is an admirable piece of streetscape. Also admired were the shop developments at Lower Bridge Street and the housing development near the Rowing Club. A nice restoration job at the weighbridge. The Coffee Shop at the bypass junction is nice. There is still an amount of plastic signage in the Main Street, however, there are exceptionally well presented traditional signs. Amongst those to catch the eye Jennys; Beirnes Quality meats; Floradale; Sweater Store; Classic Possessions; Londis and the Oarsman. Cryans had nice hanging baskets. Costello Chapel was much admired with its flower tubs. Future developments are to be looked forward to, mainly the development of new civic offices at the marina. They are certainly badly needed, as the old County Council Offices leave a lot to be desired. Good luck with your application for funds for the restoration of the Old Courthouse, also with your plans for the Town Hall, and St Georges Hall. The development of the Shambles Yard would be a great asset to the Tidy Towns effort. As remarked last year take care not to clutter the footpaths with goods. It is a practice which should be discontinued.

LANDSCAPING

The landscaping aspect of your Tidy Towns effort must receive a lot of support. The magnificent tree lined approach from Dublin is set off firstly by the boat and then by the magnificent shrubbery beds on the roundabout and then by the planting all along the bypass (superb!) Much admired was the planting at the swimming

pool and sports complex. Another boat was admired on the Boyle approach though its surroundings are most untidy. The car park opposite Glancys has a really dreadful appearance. Hopefully the new development beside it mentioned in your plan will set new standards in this area. The flower beds on this approach need to be upgraded. The development of the recreation area beside the red bank will also assist your Tidy Towns endeavours, as it is a little unsightly at present. The development at the GAA is ongoing and tree planting would be a good idea. Some works have been completed at Remembrance Park. It should be lovely when finished (well done!). The Committee are to be congratulated on their dedication and commitment under this heading.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The remarks in last years report are still relevant, the devising of a nature trail identifying the wildlife habitats throughout the town and its environs. Perhaps you might get your map maker to draw up a map to this effect. Keep after your wild life ranger. He cannot be busy all the time!

LITTER CONTROL

There are plenty of litter bins in Carrick. They are not used effectively. There was one bin full to overflowing opposite the fire station. The litter in Glancys car park was mind boggling. Litter was visible throughout the town, at the car park on the bypass and on some of the approach roads. If it is not curbed, it will become a problem. The keyword here is vigilance and you must treat this as a priority.

TIDINESS

As already mentioned the clutter of shop materials on footpaths should cease. Beer kegs are an eyesore and every effort should be made to rid the town of bill boards as last year. Apart from the litter, most of the town has a neat and tidy appearance although the road from the railway station has an untidy look about it.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Most of the private houses on the approach roads were extremely well presented. The lawns at Shannon Lodge were much admired. The housing estate at the rear of St Patricks hospital looks well with green areas cut (please remove grass cuttings). Some treeplanting here would be an addition. The housing estate near the Community School looks well, boundary walls could be painted. St Marys Close was reasonably well presented. Breffni Heights has a wooden fence which runs along the perimeter of the estate which needs painting. Some of the houses have a high standard of presentation, others were poor. There are some well presented houses at the estate on the Roscommon side of the bridge.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Boyle approach had its verges nicely trimmed and looked well apart from an untidy green area on the left. Glancys carpark is a problem on this approach. The Railway Station is well presented and the planting which has been carried out here at the bank is

lovely. There are some nice houses on the station road itself, but as already mentioned some untidy green areas. The Dublin approach is excellent and the bypass is impressive. The approach in Summerhill was presentable and the Leitrim approach was well presented with the health centre on the left. Circular Road also looks well with a nice school on the right hand side. The large forecourt at the furniture centre could be brightened up.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

There is great commitment from the people of Carrick to the Tidy Towns Committee. Good luck in your future endeavours.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (8/8/97)

The shops and presentation of the associated leisure industries makes this a most dynamic town for visitors to spend time in and enjoy the many improvements being carried out along the water front. The basic problem of litter control is being tackled with a strong commitment which is necessary so that the public spaces are always inviting. There is a need to place litter bins in more strategic locations as it was observed that people just did not walk over to them. In many cases the flow of vehicles compromises the safe movement of pedestrians and both pedestrian movement and litter bin placement should be addressed together. This situation is more associated with the water front area, rather than along the commercial streets. The memorial chapel is a major interest point for tourists and requires immediate repairs if it is to remain as a place to visit. The litter inside and kegs by the entry gates do not improve the visitors experience. Care must be taken to ensure that some of the loose floor tiles are not lost and the weeds on the roof will need to be tackled.