

Tidy Towns 1997

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 04-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	23	22
The Built Environment	40	27	26
Landscaping	40	28	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	14
Litter Control	40	26	27
Tidiness	20	11	11
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	186	183

Shanagolden, Co. Limerick

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for returning your completed entry form and street map. You do not say if you are working to an agreed plan. If not, you should set about drafting one and chart out intended progress over the next few years. The area under adjudication is quite extensive and requires a lot of maintenance. You also seem to have benefited significantly from community schemes in recent years and the amount of stone wall building is widespread. Some of the developments of previous years have been allowed slip and you need to take stock and ensure the standards you create with new developments are maintained.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The village has some very fine buildings stretching back to the last century. Indeed, there are many remnants of the last century in evidence. The church and schools are fairly well presented, the former being limited in terms of landscaping because of its location and elevation. The railings and gates of the Ceard Scoil need attention. The main street is impressive and the maple trees planted some years ago are serving you well and you have responded by good grass development with seating and flower displays. The parish hall, though simple in design, is excellently presented. The area around the Golden Vale is a let down and will need to be tackled if you are to raise your standards in this section. Finnerty's garage forecourt is very untidy in presentation and could, with little effort, be improved. The library has potential to be a gem, but needs painting and treatment to its narrow lane front - it also needs a name plate.

LANDSCAPING

You have done well in this section and there are many attractive well landscaped areas adding colour to the village. The new wall and footpath on Ballycormack Road enhances this area and the adjacent Shanid Gardens are well presented. The area around the monument could be landscaped to soften the amount of stone in this area. You should be making more of the riverside area by the bridge. There are numerous small open spaces that need a clean up and this is something that could be done by the group. For the most part approach roads are well presented, many with attractive tree planting. Some village identity signs are missing and should be erected. You might also consider a couple of well designed Failte signs on the approach roads. Madigan Park was reasonably presented. The Shannon Development Industrial Estate had its grass freshly cut and was well presented.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

This section is now an integral part of Tidy Towns and valuable marks are allotted for same. When planting trees and shrubs give consideration to species that will serve the needs of habitat and feeding for birds. There is also ample scope for promoting wildlife

and interest in same at the river bank area.

LITTER CONTROL

You have a problem with litter control and much of it is related to poor local support. Crisp bags and coke cans were left on the steps of the monument, despite three litter bins within feet. Also, there was an unacceptable amount of litter on the main street, despite an adequate amount of litter bins.

TIDINESS

In general the village looked tidy, but some of the commercial operations are not playing their part. Tidiness extends to poorly kept open spaces, broken walls and rubble such as that on the Ballycormack Road. The area around the national school was overgrown with weeds in the gutters. Weeds should be sprayed in May.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Houses are well presented and many have very well developed gardens. Many people have worked hard in keeping their premises to a high standard. Every house can have its appearance improved by planting some flowers, or by the use of window boxes and hanging baskets. An excellent example is the treatment of the house beside M.A. Nolan in Main Street.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The road from the church to the village centre is excellent and the old stone work here is excellent. Signage in general is in need of painting and this includes speed limit signs and yield right of way signs that have gone shabby. Some side and rear entrances need improvement and farm gates should be painted a strong colour by the committee with the owners' consent. Again we appeal for the gradual removal of plastic signs especially as many of the commercial buildings in the village have attractive traditional features.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

You have done well and the village looked well on a fine day in early July. Your challenge now is to maintain the standards of new developments and give greater attention to litter control. The village has potential to progress further. Good luck for 1998.