

Tidy Towns 1997

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 14-07-97

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 1997 | Mark Awarded 1996 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 44 | 42 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 30 | 28 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 34 | 33 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 22 | 22 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 27 | 27 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 13 | 12 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 24 | 24 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 28 | 27 |
| General Impression | 10 | 8 | 8 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 230 | 223 |

Carrickmacross, County Monaghan

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Congratulations to Carrickmacross Tidy Towns Committee for once again achieving a high rating in the National Tidy Towns Competition. The revised Development Plan is a very positive step forward and will bring into focus new challenges that will require a strong and determined commitment on the part of the community working in partnership with the Tidy Towns Committee. The revised strategy as outlined has impressed this adjudicator and hopefully will in a short time bring Carrickmacross again into serious contention for a national award. Thank you for the very detailed entry form with support documentation. The effort required to put together such a presentation reflects the genuine interest of your committee and is indicative of the tremendous support available from the private and public sector within your community.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Carrickmacross continues to develop its environmental image and the enhancement of business premises have contributed significantly in recent years. However, the old chestnuts still remain i.e. Lakeland factory, Fever Hospital and disused building near the ESB Depot. Until these buildings are presented better you will continue to lose marks under this heading. The Community Recreation Centre is still unattractive and requires up-grading in overall presentation. The industrial Estate on the Castleblayney Road was well presented with Bose, Barford Meats and the new fire station tidy in presentation. As mentioned in last years report the GAA grounds and Texaco Filling Station were also attractively presented. The Filling Station in particular deserves special mention because of the many features which add greatly to the spacious forecourt area. Suabra Plastics on the Dublin Road was poorly presented and certainly not in keeping with the type of presentation required to boost the tidy towns effort. The Convent, Inver College and Churches also caught the eye for very good reasons. The premises on the main street continue to improve in presentation, however, this adjudicator would suggest that you encourage further the standard of commercial signage in all areas of town. Do also encourage bilingualism in signage where appropriate. The many new housing developments are maturing nicely and will enhance further the built environment of Carrickmacross. You have performed well under this heading and the adjudicator has rewarded you with an increase in marks. Well done.

LANDSCAPING

Your very colourful flower beds, hanging baskets, window boxes, tubs etc were most impressive and where they were sited, in very prominent locations, creates an immediate impact on the visitor. Green open spaces are methodically maintained and fresh looking in their presentation. Continue to concentrate on tree planting and

landscaping with shrubs for year round effect. This will bring you benefits in the long term. Congratulations on your tree maintenance programme. The Pitch and Putt Course and Lisanisk Park were also well presented and striking features in the landscape of Carrickmacross.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The adjudicator would like you to give this section a priority rating when planning next years work programme. The Lisanisk Lake area is an obvious starting point. Identify the main existing areas of wildlife importance or primary habitats i.e. wetland, grassland, woodland etc. Your Wildlife Ranger will be of great help to you in this regard. A school project under this heading is also suggested. The heritage guide to Carrickmacross is an excellent and very informative publication. Congratulations to the Tidy Towns Committee.

LITTER CONTROL

In general litter control is very good, however, this adjudicator is disappointed to report that serious black spots were noted in the following areas; (1) Footpath between Greenmount and Londis, (2) On street basement of Garda Station and (3) An unemptied and overflowing litter bin at Lisanisk Park. Litter bins were generous in supply about the town and nicely presented with your established green and yellow colour scheme.

TIDINESS

There was a high level of tidiness in Carrickmacross on adjudication day except for some back road areas and Lisanisk Park where an untidy litter bin, broken steps and untidy walkway were a disappointment to the adjudicator. The area of the old fire station also needs attention (broken footpath etc) and the public toilets need upgrading. Carrickmacross is a very busy town and the overall standard of tidiness is generally to satisfaction.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Housing estates were all presented well including Clough Valley, Chestnut Grove, Highfield, Pearse Avenue etc. New estates like Crann Nua (not yet finished) with extensive stone wall and Drommond Dale are adding a new dimension to estate development and will enhance further your rating under this heading when work is finished. The new local authority houses were also admired. It is important that all new estates are properly landscaped and finished prior to properties being occupied. The playground and colourful floral displays were attractive features of Clough Valley Estate and were well cared for. With the number of estates in Carrickmacross increasing and a good working relationship established with residents associations, the adjudicator would recommend that you organise a Tidy Estates Competition. Many attractive residential properties were noted on the outskirts of town, some with colourful and tidily presented gardens. Another good performance this year. Well done to all.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

All approach roads were presented to a very high standard. Grass margins were well cared for and the many colourful flower beds at junctions were a welcoming introduction to Carrickmacross. Most car parks were presented to satisfaction. The newly paved area and car park at the Courthouse was impeccable in presentation and much admired. Some side roads and back lanes need up-grading and the presentation of amenity and directional signposting should be monitored on a regular basis for cleaning/repair purposes. Street furniture was well presented, however, watch out for graffiti on the Shercock Road.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

You have built up a strong and productive relationship with government agencies, commercial interests and the community at large and this is most commendable.

Your sub-committees are dedicated and carry out their responsibilities with great enthusiasm. The increase in marks awarded this year is richly deserved and with a little more drive and determination you can achieve award winning status once again.

Your decision to refocus and priorities for the next 2/3 years will assist you in this regard. Good luck and be assured this adjudicator will be watching your progress with great interest.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (8/8/97)

Having not been in Carrickmacross for a number of years it was wonderful to see so many back areas as well as the the Main Street and other prominent areas achieving a high standard. As you well know, at your level in the competition, you must pay rigorous attention to anything or anywhere which might even remotely be considered untidy. Litter did not seem to be a serious problem on second adjudication day apart from in the car park near the ESB premises. Infill housing is a particularly appropriate use for back land areas. In general the residential areas are clearly, lovingly cared for but drab walls where they occur tend to affect ones impression. Whereas Main Street has been well treated in terms of surfaces, elsewhere poor surfaces and faded painted lines looked poor. On Main Street the effect of the public improvements as well as individual shop fronts is being drastically undermined by those premises owners who affix tacky, gaudy stickers to their windows. Commendably, a reasonably consistent standard of grass cutting was evident.