

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CARRICK-ON-SUIR**
County : **TIPPERARY SOUTH**
Category : **E**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 25-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	32
The Built Environment	40	26	24
Landscaping	40	26	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	25	23
Tidiness	20	12	13
Residential Areas	30	16	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	22
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	179	176

Carrick-on-Suir, County Tipperary SR

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for the Tidy Towns Plan 1997-1999 together with the comprehensive and most useful town map and supporting documentation. The documentation submitted together with evidence on the ground, indicate a substantial degree of co-operation and involvement both of the Statutory Bodies/Development Associations and the general public. Inevitably in a settlement of the size of Carrick-on-Suir a high degree of co-operation is a condition precedent to any real progress. Some major successes can be noted in particular a very successful in-fill housing, notably above the bridge at Carrick-Beg and the delightful brick and red-doored house in Castle Lane. In deciding on locations and scale of planting be alert to the extent of planting needed to make an impact in any given area and strive, wherever possible, for more full planting of hardy annual shrubs in addition to plants which, of their nature, may require extensive annual maintenance. Have regard especially to the immensely important River Suir as a wildlife habitat and as an amenity to be enjoyed by visitor and native alike.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The visual impact of the Old Bridge is impressive. Ensure, by the level of maintenance, that this wholly beneficial effect is maximised. Some of the approach roads notably Kilmaganny feature substantial stone walls. These too with enhanced presentation, removal of weeds and excessive grass growth, would make a strong, visual impact on the approach roads. Carrick-on-Suir has a good range of well-sited, imposing buildings, which, in most cases, have been displayed in an appropriate manner. In the case of very large buildings judicious use of colour treatment conserve to soften satisfactorily an otherwise out of scale dimension. This has been very successful for example at The Gables by judicious use of gradated colour. The Town Hall itself would be improved by initiating the practice of flying flags on the flagpoles already in situ. The Heritage Centre itself, the Bank of Ireland in Main Street, the Park Inn and Sean Meades premises caught the eye as did the Carraig Hotel. In this latter case use of window boxes might be considered.

LANDSCAPING

Utilising to the full, the extensive mid-town Park area, the Castle Park, Sean Healy Park and the riverbank itself would collectively transform and beautify Carrick-on-Suir. Look also for smaller incidental spaces which offer finite but collectively important opportunities for landscaping. The use of mature trees especially when supplemented by well presented private gardens create a pleasing environment which should be utilised wherever possible. The imposing River Suir offers a special challenge and opportunity

and the various town agencies, voluntary and civic, are encouraged to devise an overall presentation plan to ensure that this major resource is utilised and presented to the optimum degree. When creating flower beds it is important to have regard to the scale needed in a particular setting and to ensure that more full planting is arranged if the facility is not to be over-awed by its surroundings. Carrick-on-Suir is overlooked particularly from the south by high approach roads and a number of viewing points. However, in too many cases the view from these have become obscured by growing trees and, long term, resited or appropriate tree pruning might be considered. Individual premises contributed substantially to the towns landscaping success notably Sean Kelly Sports Centre, Greenhill Secondary School, St Brigids Hospital and the Carrick-on-Suir Day Centre.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Inevitably the River and its immediate environs will be the centre of wildlife development. Already the riverside walk is a delight. The Fair Green and Park area also offer some opportunities which might be explored further. The extensive gardens and grassed areas in Tanners Gate and Clairin and Lissadell Park area are also significant, as is the area around Glen River albeit at a smaller scale. Perhaps the best way to proceed is to engage the services of local wildlife enthusiasts and, with their aid, to devise a 2 or 3 year programme linked to the landscaping of the River to enhance this important aspect of the towns overall presentation.

LITTER CONTROL

Carrick-on-Suir is a sizeable and, on the day of adjudication, a very busy centre with substantial traffic flows. Some litter was in evidence, surprisingly in the lesser used laneways and roads, noticeably by the riverside. In addition litter has been allowed to accumulate in the car park opposite the Town Hall. In general litter management is of a high order with, perhaps, additional litter bins required in some of the locations noted above.

TIDINESS

The overall impression is of a good well managed and suitably presented busy centre. In a number of locations, overgrown grass and weeds have been allowed to flourish at the base of walls which detracted somewhat from the positive impression generally. Public building grounds notably the Friary were very well presented as was the Carrick-on-Suir Service Station (ESSO) on the Clonmel Road. In some areas the road surface itself and the car park area opposite the Town Hall were below par and attention, in the long term, needs to be directed to these difficult defects. The entrance to the Railway Station and the building itself was disappointingly disfigured with graffiti and projected an unsatisfactory rundown appearance. We salute the efforts of the local based staff who are doing all they can by planting to redress these matters. Signage generally was well presented but on the major approach roads there seem to be a surfeit of signs and some rationalisation might be considered.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Carrick-on-Suir has a number of fine mature estates and the later additions, for example, Upper Friary Heights are maturing nicely. The Castle Park estate with mature trees and the imposing backdrop of the Manor House was a delight but don't overlook minor amounts of spoil and weed growth at the base of walls and between the pavement and the road itself. O'Hickey Place was very pleasant but the same standard was not achieved at Mass Road. The well developed housing estates off the Clonmel road were a delight to visit with their well tended commercial grassed areas supplemented by a very high standard achieved in the individual gardens. Dunbane estate is suffering from the extent of graffiti in evidence there. While standards varied, applaud is extended to those householders who had well presented gardens. In general, throughout the Community, additional litter bins are required with attention to their constant servicing.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The standards achieved on the various approach roads varied. Clonmel is an excellent approach while the main entrance from Waterford is also very well presented. We draw attention to the sheer number of signs on the Waterford road which has reached a point where they may very well be counterproductive. In general, signage on the approaches and within the town itself required at least cleaning, in many cases repainting and refurbishment generally in others. Commercial buildings and industrial estates on the approach roads were in most cases positive and well presented. The filling stations noticeably the ESSO stations were neat and inviting. The superb presentation of the Sean Kelly Sports Centre adds substantially to the quality on the Waterford approach. Within the town some of the smaller streets and the quays area itself fail to maintain these high standards and attention is directed to these areas. By contrast Main Street was a delight with trees maturing nicely and a number of commercial premises, by judicious use of window boxes and hanging baskets, contributing to an overall most pleasant aspect.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Carrick-on-Suir projects the demeanour of a vibrant, growing and proud location offering itself, with out reservation, as an important stopping point and tourist resort. Many of the locations, vistas and set piece attractions are extremely well presented and invite exploration. Other aspects, particularly the minor thoroughfare and especially the River area, need special attention so that the entirety of the centre is projected to the optimum degree possible.