

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 30-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	42	42
The Built Environment	40	30	30
Landscaping	40	30	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	21
Litter Control	40	31	32
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	24
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	220	219

Shannon, County Clare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for an excellent outline of activities, problems, and improvement intentions included in the returned form. You have worked on many of the suggestions mentioned in last years report and this is commendable. Some new developments are acknowledged and you have also engaged in extra environmental work yourselves. In general, you are getting a good response from the official agencies and it is good to read that you have a close liaison with various groups. As mentioned last year the great amount of tree planting in the towns early development continues to enhance the area.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

A good deal of development is currently underway in the industrial estates and this is similar to other developing towns in the county. You need to ensure that new developments blend in well with their neighbours. Some of the industries in the main estate have been improved since last year and the couple of bad patches referred to last year have been rectified. The entrance to the principal estate is probably the best in Ireland and projects a most favourable image for industry and Shannon. It is hard not to single out G.P.A. on a yearly basis and it was further complemented this year by the excellent flower display opposite the main entrance. Signage on the Limerick approach road is now cluttered and losing its effect. Signs are also uncoordinated in design and shape and this is regrettable. The Renault Garage is well presented on the Limerick approach.

LANDSCAPING

Always a high scorer in Shannon and this year you have scored well again in this section. The enormous amount of grass cutting throughout the town is quite demanding and for the most part well controlled. There is still a weakness with school landscaping and the Community School is still in need of improved presentation. There is a reduction in the number of temporary dwellings at Ballymurtagh and now might be the opportune time to tackle the estate entrance problem. The tree planting at Drumgeely will further enhance with the passing of time. The display at the main roundabout is excellent and provides a most welcoming appearance for airport traffic - well done. The town park is superb and being put to good use.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The best area for this development is at the rear of the Great Southern Hotel as you mention in your application. Display boards at this area illustrating the most common wildlife of the area would be of great benefit to the many walkers in this area

also. If you could replicate the ones at Ennis town it would raise your marks in this section. Your intention to work with local schools in this matter is praiseworthy and you should try and achieve improvement for 1999. Also the forest areas should be included, as they cater for a different type of wildlife to that of the estuary.

LITTER CONTROL

You have slipped a little here and the litter control in the estates is not up to standard. This was particularly noticeable after fresh grass cutting on some of the estates, when the litter became more obvious. The town centre and the shopping areas was almost free of litter, but your problem lies with some of the estates.

TIDINESS

In general, Shannon town looked well and tidy. The area at the top of Drumgeely is quite overgrown and the old hall is very poorly presented - as it was last year. The problems with pallets at the industrial estate has been improved and in general this area is now much tidier. However, the forecourt of Beefab Safeland Ltd., would benefit from some weed spraying.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

You have scored well again in this section and many newly developed housing schemes will further improve the overall. Builders should be encouraged to finish well and leave the site appropriately landscaped. The bilingual signage in the estates is also praiseworthy. Some estates have houses doubling as convenience shops and these need extra attention in built up areas.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

For the most part you do not have a major problem with this section. However, some private houses could improve their side and back areas and some were observed carrying out motor repairs, which is acceptable only if they are kept neat and tidy and avoid long parking of unused vehicles. The principal approaches from Limerick and Newmarket are of a high standard and some of the roadside buildings excel, like The Oak Wood Arms Hotel. Some estates would benefit from freshly painted boundary walls and this should be encouraged by the committee.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Another fine performance by Ireland's newest town. Your task now is to build on your strengths of landscaping and industrial excellence and transfer this standard to housing estates and approach roads. Some of the problems outlined above are beyond the scope of a voluntary committee and it is vital that you maintain close liaison with the various agencies mentioned in your

application form. Well done on a good performance.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (12/08/98)

Shannon town looked quite well on the day of second adjudication, again the map and information supplied was very helpful. A number of roadsigns were in need of refurbishment on entering the centre. Some stretches of kerb were weedy near the Glenn na Smol sign and across from the sports grounds. It is important to remove these when they are dead as they can look just as unsightly. The sports grounds were unusual in that weed growth was quite prolific on the hard surfaced area. Weedy footpath kerbs were a feature of Carraig Lia also. Many signs, particularly signs for housing estates need refurbishment and a good number of roadsigns need to be repainted. A number of boundary walls at Inis Meara were in need of attention. Landscaping around the church looks well. The children's play equipment in Finian Park looks quite sparse. More could be provided, or alternatively adventure sports play equipment would be most attractive. Some residential properties in Tra Daree Court are in need of attention. The overall impression is quite favorable, nicely landscaped areas, particularly around the industrial estate.