

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 14-06-99

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	44	43
The Built Environment	40	31	31
Landscaping	40	32	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	19
Litter Control	40	23	24
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	28
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	227	223

Carrick on Shannon, County Leitrim

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The interesting and useful document enclosed is more a list of objectives than a 5-year Development Plan – the latter would set targets for each successive year, with anticipated completion dates for each individual project. The town is developing in an unprecedented way at present; projects can not be assessed until completed, and this will result in a very small increase in marks this year - but it may be confidently expected that a very substantial rise will be registered in the years 2000 and 2001. Your map is very helpful and easy to read – but even it is becoming outdated!

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Market House centre is progressing in a very exciting way; when finished, neighbouring buildings such as the County Arms and the temporary Telecom building may expect to have to make improvements in order to match. The Landmark Hotel (not on map) has become very much a landmark and will fit well into the scene once the surrounding development work is finished. (Marks are not being lost for ongoing construction sites, of which there are many.) The new County Council HQ is another exceptionally exciting development, as is the renovation of the nearby Hatley Manor – their completion is eagerly awaited. A number of fine business premises were photographed with a view to the Shopfront awards – older shops where PVC frames have been inserted in upper window openings are unlikely to do well, however; proprietors should watch that, for example, pieces of torn plastic bunting are not adhering to their walls – tiny disfigurements can affect the final choice. The old Court House is a sad spectacle in the midst of so much improvement – it is a very handsome building and the new use suggested sounds encouraging.

LANDSCAPING

Planting at the Quay, by the Bridge, the Community School, and the Sport Complex, as well as several other smaller areas such as between the RC Church and Allied Irish Bank, is enriching the town to a wonderful extent. Dozens of trees planted in the past have really come into their own; new tree planting continues this tradition.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Carrick on Shannon is plentifully surrounded by natural habitats. The information boards which you plan will be looked forward to. School projects should be encouraged.

LITTER CONTROL

This did not seem as effective as last year. It may be that there was an unusually based incidence on this particular adjudication day. If there is a second adjudication the experience may be less disappointing. Considerable littering was seen in Bridge Street, on the Quay below the old Court House, at the Swimming Pool green, outside the Community School (it would seem to be an obvious place for the school management to place a bin), along the Boyle Road as far as the Elphin junction, along the hedge opposite the Landmark Hotel, around the phone box on the Elphin road. There were overflowing domestic bins in two conspicuous properties near the bus stop.

TIDINESS

There is what appears to be a dump by the 30mph sign on the Boyle road. The nearby car park was weedy and might be improved if its boundaries were defined by kerbing. The sagging lengthy post and wire fence opposite the Hospital contrasts with the excellent stone wall down to the Community School. Broken bollards at the Sports Complex give an uncared-for effect. The car park at the Emerald Star HQ was weedy – contrasting with the excellent planting.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

New apartments being built at Shannon Court look promising and will be considered next year. The category of housing stock divides mainly into older street and terrace houses, and newer suburban homes and estates. Of the former, there are some supremely well kept examples in the town centre, and some interesting rehabilitations such as the pair of old houses by the railway bridge. Of the latter, recent housing infill is impressive, and established developments such as Shannon Lodge, Amber Court and Drummagh are very well looked after indeed. The estates at St. Patricks Park and Breffni Heights were looking neat on adjudication day, and litter was not evident though there was some kerbside weed.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The opening up of new roads in the older part of the town has inevitably resulted in some untidy 'backs' being revealed – some premises in Bridge Street, including two very rusty corrugated iron roofs, do not look well from the roads to the Landmark Leisure Centre and the Bush Hotel – though this is more a matter for Tidiness (above). It is hoped this problem will be addressed before next year. Surfaces are generally good – the Elphin Road, and its sidewalk, are much improved, as is the area round the

railway station. The approach from Dublin, though mainly outside the urban area, is improving every year.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A fine town expanding at an unusual rate. In two or three years, when the new developments have been assimilated, it will be a truly remarkable place.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (05/08/99)

Carrick-on-Shannon looked well on the evening and following morning of second adjudication (the adjudicator stayed overnight in the town). On the first evening of second adjudication, there was a light scattering of litter around the town centre with perhaps the worst area being the area around Gings Lounge Bar. It was good to note the next morning that the town had been swept clean. However, the area around Gings Lounge Bar across the bridge, had not been attended to. It would seem that you are confining your street cleaning operation to too small an area and this will need to be extended. The river banks of the Shannon were well presented with fine amenities for the boating community and for the land visitor. One recycling point (beside the Fire Station) looked somewhat untidy whereas a second one near The Tourist Information Office was well presented. The problem presented by on-going development is appreciated and as indicated by the first adjudicator when development works have been completed, there should be a significant increase in marks. Some road signage is in need of attention, for example the thirty mph speed limit signs near the Gings Lounge Bar previously noted. It would seem that this corner of the town is being quite neglected. The wire and post fencing along the road leading up to the Community Hospital could be planted with shrubs or hedgerow to good effect. The Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs building would be much improved if its sign were reinstated. Some signs need to be refurbished, for example, one for the swimming pool near the Sports and Leisure Centre. Wildflowers (iris and others) along the road to the swimming pool and Sports and Leisure Centre are a nice feature of this area of the town.