

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CARRICKMACROSS**
County : **MONAGHAN**
Category : **E**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 30-06-99

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	45	45
The Built Environment	40	32	32
Landscaping	40	37	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	24
Litter Control	40	30	28
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	26	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	29
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	246	240

Carrickmacross, County Monaghan

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your completed questionnaire, very detailed map and supporting material. It was all very helpful in setting the scene for adjudication. Your supporting material, included an interesting submission to the U.D.C. highlighted the T.T.C. enduring commitment and enthusiasm in promoting the Tidy Towns ethos in your lovely town. Your effective publicity in local papers highlighted the efforts and rewards of last year's entry in the Entente Florale Competition, and congratulations to all involved. Your fund raising ventures and community involvement, along with your continued co-operation with the County Council and other interested bodies was again noted, and the benefits of these partnerships will continue to enhance and enrich the town for both its community and visitors alike.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Carrickmacross has many fine feature buildings that reflect the historical and commercial background of the town, as detailed in your very interesting heritage booklet. The overall presentation of both commercial, public and private premises in the town, was good on the day of adjudication. The many brightly painted buildings, flowers and landscape features all contribute to this first impression. The Churches, Graveyards, Convent and Schools looked well, but the hall adjoining the R.C. Church will soon need its paint work refreshed. The old Church and Graveyard also looked tidy, but some further work would enhance this historical site. The Court House, in its very focal position, is seemingly about to be refurbished, and hopefully the broken window will be replaced before any vandalism sets in. The Market Place looks very impressive and the mart opposite looked tidy. The tastefully refurbished Fever Hospital also looked very well, as did Inver College with its nice flower features. While acknowledging that a small effort has been made in improving the presentation of the Lakeland Store Site, last years comments still apply about this site and the other remaining sites in the town that will continue to detract from the overall appearance of the build environment. The building adjacent to the E.S.B., the Community Centre and surrounding area, the untidy Health Centre on Emmet St., the farm buildings on the Mullinary Road, are among those that still need attention. The wide main street has a large range of colourful premises and building styles. It is encouraging to see many new premises in the Main St. and New St. opting for a more traditional and often stylish presentation. It is again important to highlight previous years' comments about unsuitable presentation, and excessive plastic signs on business premises. The problem with shop goods and free standing signs on the footpath

continues in Main Street. This practice should also be discouraged by the committee as it interferes with access for the disabled. Industrial premises were generally well presented, but it remains important to keep the landscape features, fencing, open areas and verges around these premises tidy also.

LANDSCAPING

The many landscape features, tubs, hanging baskets and window boxes, throughout the town and on the approach roads, were once again consistently well cared for, and attractively presented, enhancing the whole environment. The many newly planted trees also look well, and the new sandstone boulders are an interesting feature in their various locations around the town. The new landscaping in the Car Park adjoining the E.S.B. is very impressive and a great improvement to the area. The lovely feature at the end of Mullinary Road looked very well, as did the small flower bed at the Market Lounge, and the area around Valley Lodge. Many of the housing developments throughout the town also had some lovely landscape features. Once again, particular mention must go to the lovely landscaping in the Cran Nua Hosing Development, with its attractive mix of trees and perennial plant and shrub beds that are maturing nicely. Clough Valley also deserves special mention with its unusual picnic area and pump and bucket flower features. The mock wall and pump also looked well at the Fire Station, and some attractive landscaping was noted in the Car Park adjoining the R.C. Church. Credit is also due to the many business / public premises that have made a special effort with many attractive flower features noted throughout the town. The major filling stations in town all looked well with some lovely flower features, a particularly attractive rose bed and pump feature was admired at the Statoil garage. The Colourful Mural at Daly Brothers also looks well on completion, and some nicely painted Victorian ventilation poles were noted. The Picnic area at the Dublin Rd. junction needed its grass cut in order to use the picnic tables located in this green area.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The beautiful Lisanisk Park is an envious wildlife amenity area to have so close to the town centre. The attractive sculpture pieces, flower beds, and railway sleepers all look well. The committee have acknowledged the many opportunities for enhancing and conserving wildlife habitats and the environment within this area. The lake itself, water side edges, nesting boxes, wildflower meadows and hedgerows all offer further opportunities for appropriate enhancement within this category, both on this site and in other suitable locations in the town. The committee has a very important role to play in preserving and enhancing the

natural environment throughout the town. Using the assistance of ENFO, and local Wild Life experts, try to involve the community and local schools /children in promoting this important area of the competition

LITTER CONTROL

There was some litter in evidence on the day of adjudication, but a major improvement in litter control was noted in the streets in the town centre. It was particularly good to see no litter in the basement area of the Garda Station, well done to those responsibly for maintaining this frequent previous offender. Some litter was noted around the Fire Station and adjoining estate entrance, at the stone cottages in New Street and around the trees in the laneway adjoining the Market Place. An overflowing bin looked very unsightly beside the new landscape features in Clough Valley. Your Litter Awareness Programme is paying dividends but the committee and community must remain vigilant in this important area.

TIDINESS

Once again the overall impression of the town was one of general tidiness. However some small aspects of the town need some attention. Some issues were raised in the Built Environment section regarding individual properties and derelict sites. This committee has already demonstrated how they have positively faced the challenge of dereliction, and will hopefully continue to suitably maintain all the sites that they previously worked on. The graffiti needs to be removed and the fence repaired in the Car Park beside the E.S.B. building to complete its very impressive makeover. The entrance to the Municipal Yard adjoining the Market building still needs a little attention as does the sign on J.J.Quigley Park. It is also important to keep the side alleys, gable and boundary walls clean, tidy and weed free throughout the town, and to suitably screen untidy areas with appropriate fencing or gates. Some prominent gable walls in the town need their paintwork refreshed, and the Esso garage needs to screen some of the material in their rear yard, as it detracts from their otherwise very smart presentation. A very smart wooden fence screening Mulcross Motors tidy yard, also caught this adjudicators eye.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The majority of houses throughout the town and on the approach roads, were well presented. Tidy hedges and smart boundary walls, lawns and colourful flowers and features were noted in some individual gardens, as were some attractive tubs and window boxes, and hanging baskets, at some of the town houses. However the nicely maintained homes highlight the minority that need attention

or their paint work refreshed both in the town, housing developments and on the approach roads. Particular mention must go to all the tidy green areas and colourful flower beds in many housing developments. Some attractive new features and landscaping, including a smart No Litter Sign, have been added to the immaculate Highfield Estate, and Clough Valley and its attractive landscaping also looked well. Convent View had some lovely tree planting, as did Drumond Etra with its tidy landscaping that enhances this whole area. St. Mc Cartain's Villas had some nice paving and perennial beds , but the road surface needs some attention. Cran Nua continues to set the standard and impress as did the cottage opposite the entrance and the other smaller developments on this road. Some attractive landscaping, trees and stone wall entrances caught the eye at Alder Heights, the new estate on the Fire Station Road and at the small development opposite Mulcross Motors. Deroman Court, Railway Court, the developments on the Shercock Rd. and Pearse Ave. also looked well. The town houses and stone cottages around New Street and colourful houses in Mullinary Street also caught the eye. Utilising some of your spare sandstone rocks to make estate signs could be a useful idea. The excellent working relationship between the Tidy Towns and Resident Committees continues, once again congratulations for the committed enthusiasm and hard work to everyone involved.

ROADS STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Tidy verges, smartly faced hedges, attractive landscaping, and tree planting were noted on all the major approach roads. Some minor roads, footpaths, back street areas and roads to outlying housing developments still need attention in all aspects of their presentation. Mullinary Road, has some nice stone walls that could benefit from the hedges around them being tided, as could the minor road off it. The Shercock Road and Drumconrath Road both have a fine new road surface, the latter also having some fine stone walls that deserve to be cleaned. The committee continues with their justifiable quest to improve off street parking with some well presented success. Once again some effective contributions towards access for the disabled were noted in the town centre, with lower switches at pedestrian lights, dipped footpaths, and disabled parking spaces available in central locations .

GENERAL IMPRESSION

This adjudicator looked forward to a return visit to Carrickmacross and the continued progress and hard work of the towns community and the Tidy Towns Committee impressed yet again. The committee acknowledges the issues that need to be addressed and hopefully they will be resolved as effectively as your thoughtful solutions to

previous challenges. Vigilant litter control, attention to detail and a sustained interactive partnership with interested bodies remain important priorities for the committee, in order to optimise the full potential of Carrickmacross in this competition. Congratulations to all, your results to date are a good advertisement for the hard work of the T.T.C. and the community.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (08/08/99)

Carrickmacross looked very well on the occasion of our second visit. Litter control was not quite as good as it could have been although it is important to stress that it was not a serious problem. A stretch along the main street from the R.O' Hanlon premises up to the Murnaghan Brothers premises exhibited small scraps of litter, these were fairly numerous although small. Another offending area was the beautifully landscaped car park beside the ESB offices, the grass verges here were littered also. A small patch of ground beside the ESB office which was badly overgrown, could be developed as a small wildlife garden pending its redevelopment. The entrance to the town from the Crossmaglen road is quite magnificent with some fine scenic views of the surrounding countryside. However the verges on this road tend to be less well tended than those of other roads which is a pity as it contrasts sharply with the soft rolling landscape. Flower displays were, of course, as usual up to their very high standard and we look forward to the completion of the undergrounding of overhead service cables along the main street. Well done on work accomplished to date, both for this year's presentation and the work of the previous years. For such a large town, Carrickmacross enjoys a high standard of presentation and some excellent amenity features.