

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **SHANNONBRIDGE**  
County : **OFFALY**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 05-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	31
The Built Environment	40	31	30
Landscaping	40	31	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	28	30
Tidiness	20	15	14
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	26
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>211</b>

## **Shannonbridge, County Offaly**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

The entry form is very well filled out and contains a significant amount of information. The accompanying map was very helpful in detailed information. At present there is still a requirement that a mandatory document highlighting a three to five year programme of works is presented with accompanying graphical material. The drop in marks reflects the need to have this document submitted with the entry form; however it must be stated that the efforts by the village in presenting a very cohesive and determined approach to village improvements makes any visit to Shannonbridge a very enjoyable experience.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The church is very well presented and the colour scheme is very satisfactory for the rural setting. Perhaps the road needs greater definition outside the walls and the public path extended in front of the entrance area so that there is a safer environment at this corner, but in general the whole presentation of this portion of the village is very high. The Health Centre does need repainting; however the four trees placed in front of it very well set off both the building and this area of the main street. The main street itself is very well handled and provides a very comfortable environment for walking round in. The new Interpretative Centre is a great feature to have and there is a wonderful opportunity to go inside such an interesting building. In general the whole atmosphere presented by the village and its connection to the marina or loughs is one of great balance and should mature in future years to one of the more pleasant stop-over points along the River Shannon.

### **LANDSCAPING**

This whole area must be complimented upon, particularly with the use of native plants along the quay area. Flower displays in pots had a good scale and colour and all private landscaped areas very much contributed to the whole setting of both village and main street.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The exact approach being taken to the management plan for the preservation of the corncrake was not clear. However it is accepted that this is one of the more important issues that must be faced by villages adjacent to the Shannon. Perhaps greater clarification of this issue in the Development Report might allow this category to play a more important role in the adjudication of the village.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

This aspect does not seem to have been as well managed as described in last year's report. There was quite a lot of litter noted on the main street and the skip at the harbour area did seem to have its own influence on the character of the new facilities. However in general the litter management of the village is good as reflected in the marks given. Unfortunately this mark reflects a drop, but hopefully this is only a temporary position.

## **TIDINESS**

The village scores very high in its presentation and management of tidiness throughout all spaces. The new works being carried out at St. Kierans Park will no doubt further ensure that this category will always have a high mark. It is particularly good that this village extends to the other side of the River Shannon around the fortifications; however it is unfortunate that the fortifications themselves are in need of significant work to match with the other areas of the village.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

All residential areas are beautifully presented. St. Kierans Park has a very strong cottage character that is well supported by the side gardens that provide strong colour and diversity of plant material. Rachra Park is well kept but requires attention to the north facing aspect of the street environment as the space would seem to be quite dominated by walls and does not have good orientation.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

All roads are very well tended and provide a very pleasant sense of entry into the village. The improvement works at St. Kierans Park will further enhance this housing area. It was not obvious what new improvements have been made to Rachra Park, though landscape improvements have been carried out in the recent past.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

This town has obvious potential as can be seen from the increase in marks over recent years. It has reached a threshold that defines the village as a very pleasant place to visit. Future works over the next set of years must examine some new creative aspects to the presentation of the village to ensure its continued success and we wish you success in every aspect of these future endeavours.