Tidy Towns 1999

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **SHINRONE**
County : **OFFALY**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 06-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	33
The Built Environment	40	28	27
Landscaping	40	30	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	21
Litter Control	40	31	28
Tidiness	20	16	13
Residential Areas	30	21	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	**300**	**216**	**205**

Shinrone, County Offaly

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for the informative entry form; the map supplied is very clear. The three to five year plan is well laid out and the progress statements very helpful for adjudication purposes. There is a need to show where the items for 1999 are going to happen as the adjudicator generally has no local knowledge of the particular village. The overall concept of the development document is easily understood and the separation between general maintenance for each year and what is specific to 1999 is important to highlight.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The provision of new lamp standards with the hanging planters provides a very strong theme for the central part of the village. The terrace opposite the junction to the Roscrea road is well presented and there is a very fine stone wall outside the school. It is a pity that the traditional stone wall capping is so poorly carried out as the traditional forms of construction are being lost unconsciously. This should be considered in any new works with respect to stonework.

LANDSCAPING

There is perhaps too much emphasis on the provision of boxes for flowers as these require high maintenance. Permanent planting beds of perennial plants at the bases of walls might be worth considering. There is a great display of flowers that adds significant colour with the hanging baskets and they are very well treated. The trees outside the school are very fine and a necessary addition. The row of copper beech beside the church again are a very good long term investment and perhaps the axial view towards the church when entering the road could be improved by a further planting of copper beech on the other side of the road. It is noted that the telephone kiosk must have been moved to its final location as it is very integrated into the new works in the village centre. The latter are to a high standard and the integration of the seating with the planters in the new stone wall is a very good idea for which the Committee must be complimented. It should be noted that in some places opposite the school, trees could be used so as to define this space more strongly.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The survey provided was helpful; however it would be also helpful to have some indication as to what the survey is trying to achieve and how this information will be used in the public space. Will this information be used to develop a programme

for the trimming of hedges and if so the date should be specified. This will assist in developing a direction for the wildlife decisions in this category.

LITTER CONTROL

This is very well handled and there is obviously a very strong desire to control this issue. It is good to see the coloured standardised litter bins, and these were being painted during the time of adjudication; colour selection is very appropriate.

TIDINESS

The tidiness of the village is remarkable in that it seems to have touched everything and all involved must be complimented on the thoroughness of this task.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Residential areas are not very large, but very well tended. There are very good rose displays and trees at Annebrook View. The grass is cut very well.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

All entry roads in this town have been treated to a very high standard and it is noted that in general most elements where visual improvement could be considered have been carried out. The entry from Roscrea will develop into a very pleasing area given the selection of limes which will mature in future years.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The general impression of this village is that the current works being carried out have been very effective in improving the overall visual standards of the village and all such improvements must be commended.