

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **SHANNONVALE**
County : **CORK**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 21-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	32
The Built Environment	40	25	25
Landscaping	40	32	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	33	32
Tidiness	20	9	9
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	8	7
TOTAL MARK	300	206	199

Shannonvale, Cork

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your application form and very well drawn detailed map of Shannonvale. Your five-year development plan is a good one. There appears to be a lot of good will locally for your work. Keep up your contact with the County Council and other relevant bodies. Try to have an evenness of approach across all spectrums of the competition. This can be difficult even for much larger Committees than your own. Keep up your great work in what is only your second year in the competition.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The built environment is quite good again, the Noel Phair Public house looks well but should consider substituting plastic signs with more traditional ones. Also the growth of ivy over windowpanes should be cut back on the pub. The Welding Works in the centre of the village is, by its nature, not a tidy business, but efforts should be made to screen it off as much as possible from public view with fencing which in turn could be a feature with climbing plants etc. The Mill is a fine building and perhaps some day it could be refurbished to it's former glory. I note your plans to try to get a preservation order.

LANDSCAPING

The landscaping at the Ballinascarty approach is beautifully done, and the monuments here and at Ballyvahillig Cross are done with great care and attention. The planting along the bridge has matured and looks very robust, the mixing of tree colours creates a very strong visual presentation. The village park has been further refined with a tarmacadam surfaced pathway to the river Arrigadeen. There may be possibilities here to develop a picnic area near the river. The end of the path may need to be dished to provide ease of access for wheelchairs and prams etc. Your plans for safety measures at the river are also noted (life buoys etc). The picnic table sited on railway sleepers in the park looks very inviting. The 'Timplebrien Stone Circle' is a tremendous asset to the village, access to it should be opened up to the public if this is possible.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

This is an area that the Committee should work on and continue with its plans for feeding baskets and bird tables mentioned in your development plan. The group should consider an 'environmental program'. Action sheet 6 of the Tidy Towns handbook gives a very straightforward five step

approach, which includes Habitat Survey, Developing a Management Plan, Access and Community Involvement, Interpretation and Carrying out the Work. Do not be overwhelmed, it takes time to work through this. You should focus especially on school and youth groups who may relish the task. You are lucky to have the Arrigadeen river flowing through your village this would make an excellent first project. This could form part of the wildlife storyboards for children in your Development Plan.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter again seems to be in check with only some trace litter in evidence on the Clonakilty side of the bridge. The village appears to be surviving well without litter bins, this demonstrates a very strong discipline by all inhabitants, which should be copied by other towns and villages. Keep up anti-litter awareness in the Community and particularly target younger members of the village who should form good habits in relation to litter at a young age.

TIDINESS

Many of the problems highlighted in last year's report are still relevant. The collapsed shed and some other dumping at the elbow turn before the village on the Ballinascarty approach. The old cars at the Welding Works have been removed and this is commended but the next step should be screening as mentioned in the Built Environment Section. An eye should be kept to weed growth at kerbsides and the base of walls.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

This continues to be a good category with the two main residential terraces looking well. Some individual houses have made good use of old farm machinery and milk churns as ornamental garden displays. These are lovely but care should be taken not to over-elaborate on them. The private housing on the Clonakilty road was also very good.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach from Ballinascarty is very good and creates an excellent first impression. The mix of timber fencing, grass margins, planting and natural stone walls come together very well. The Clonakilty approach was good with a very clear bilingual village sign now in position. The approach road opposite that to the West Cork Technology Park needs cutting back, and the West Cork Technology Park approach needs weeding on the right-hand side and some wall repairs. The use of natural cut stone is a great feature of Shannonvale, particularly the vertical rather than the horizontal orientation of the stone. The village pump also looks well and is a nice feature. The cast iron lighting

near the park and Noel Phairs Pub is a good asset. Efforts should be made to co-ordinate any future street furniture with these – but keep it simple to blend in with the village atmosphere. There are some minor stone repairs required for the bridge. Keep up your efforts to secure speed limit signs, as these are an essential safety feature.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Shannovale is a beautiful village with some lovely features such as the town park, the river and the Templebrien Stone Circle. Keep working to your Development Plan. Try to tackle areas like tidiness and the Wildlife and Natural Amenities Sections