

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 28-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	45	44
The Built Environment	40	31	31
Landscaping	40	33	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	21
Litter Control	40	23	23
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	29
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	230	227

Carrick-on-Shannon, County Leitrim

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Annual Report and photographs are most helpful as it outlines in some detail the many developments which are taking place in Carrick-on-Shannon at the moment. Some of the projects are not finished as yet but should, when completed, be a further addition for this handsome riverside town. The roadworks on the Boyle Road have also to be completed so the time scale for all developments is never exact and last year adjudicator's remarks would be more correct to state 2001 as the year when most of these developments should be completed. Nevertheless the overall appearance of the town is being complemented by most of the developments and the mixture of the old and new looks like producing a nice blend. This adjudicator inspected both sides of Carrick on Shannon both in Cortober and Carrick itself. Thanks are due to the Committee for the return of the completed questionnaire and their excellent presentation of the other relevant documentation. Well done!

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Quay area is developing well and the new civic buildings are really excellent. One building – the Old Courthouse should, in this adjudicator's opinion, be renovated and restored fully. Although improvements have been carried out they are only piecemeal, and in fact the other developments are spoiled somewhat by its rather neglected facade. The grounds beside this building with the broken down pre-fab should be tidied up and rubble removed or at last screened off. Hopefully funding can be found to restore this building to its former glory. Hatley Manor and the grounds are really magnificent. Other Buildings to catch the eye were the New Courthouse, St Mary's and George's Churches. The hospital is beautifully presented with the floral displays and window boxes and the new extension, again with its shrubbery beds and fountain, brightens the entire appearance of the building. The Tourist Office in the Old Barrel Store is worthy of comment. The Market House Centre, which unfortunately is not yet finished, should be a real tour de force when completed. This is eagerly awaited. Hopefully the planning application by the county 'hotel' will be successful as frankly the building has a very unkempt appearance. The Old Townhall is well presented and your remarks regarding the Costello Chapel are noted. The Landmark Hotel is outstanding and the Shannon Court apartments are well presented. The Railway Station is also worthy of comment and is extremely well maintained. Unfortunately

the buildings next to the station are in very poor condition and are in need of attention. The VEC Building is also well maintained with its nice window boxes. Also the new Rowing Club building looks very well. The Canoe Club 'building' could do with a facelift!

LANDSCAPING

Many of the approach roads are to be complimented under this heading in particular the Dublin approach with its boat with shrubs and the wonderful tree lined entrance to the town. Unfortunately the roundabout (as mentioned in your report) has not as yet been replanted. Leitrim Road had some very nice flower beds and on the left as you approach there were some nice flower beds at the base of signs. There are other areas which can be included under this heading –planting at the Community School, Carrig Brack Estate, Landmark Hotel, AIB Bank and the hospital grounds with its nice little park. The Committee and the citizens of Carrick on Shannon are to be complimented on this magnificent display of flowers, window boxes and hanging baskets.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

There are many natural habitats in the vicinity of Carrick-on-Shannon. The river is obviously one. A large number of ducks and swans as per your photograph were actually seen on the river on adjudication day.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control appears to be more effective this year apart from the litter at the Marina (as already mentioned). Litter was also noticed in the vicinity of the Sports Complex and in the grounds of the Community School (although the landscaping was very good). There was also some litter at the Fast Food restaurant on Quay Street.

TIDINESS

It's an ill wind that doesn't bring some good. The dump area on the Boyle Road has been overtaken by roadworks as has the car park. Hopefully this project will be completed by next year. The area surrounding both Emerald Star and Carrick Craft and the Civic Buildings is rather unkempt. A number of buildings on the Leitrim approach appears to be empty and rather neglected looking. Cortober has a nice stone wall but there is an open space which is an eye sore. There are untidy open spaces on both sides of the Elphin Road close to the Mace shop. Jones Oil also has a very untidy forecourt. The lamp standards on the bridge and in the Marina area need to be painted. As last year the backs of buildings from Bridge Street towards the Landmark Hotel remain neglected. Facade of Park Lane House needs

refurbishment.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

As already mentioned Shannon Court Apartments have a very pleasant appearance. The new apartments at Bridge Street are also well presented. Many of the new housing estates are a credit to all concerned and the display of brightly painted houses, floral displays and manicured lawns are excellent. The estates at Breffni Heights, Kingston Terrace and St Patrick's Park are reasonably well presented although some householders could make a greater effort. The estate of houses in the hospital grounds are very well maintained. Similarly Shannon Lodge also looked well. However, the road surface here could be improved. St Mary's Close houses are very attractive also.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

As already mentioned the premises at the back of Bridge Street remains the same. The approach roads in general are very good and when the roadworks are completed on the Boyle Road, it should be a great addition to the tidy towns efforts. Most of the verges are neatly trimmed and apart from some kerbside weeds at bases of walls the entrances were good. Some of the paving on the Main Street needs replacing. There is a lane way between Keaney's and Heslin's – with a rusty iron gate – and there is glass and litter strewn about. Several beer keys were noticed at the end of this lane. The Clock Tower with its nice flower tubs and seating is a nice feature of the street.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Another great effort by the Tidy Towns Committee. The town is developing at a fast pace and some striking developments have already taken place. We look forward to the completion of developments and we wish the Tidy Towns Committee every success with their endeavours. Well done!

SECOND ADJUDICATION (04/08/00)

Carrick-On-Shannon looked well on the day of second adjudication and litter control was quite good. However there is still some room for improvement. The roundabout had not yet been landscaped by the time of our second visit. The awnings on the County Hotel premises should be removed as an interim measure until redevelopment as these look quite bad. The rusted iron gate in the laneway between Keaney's and Heslin's has some excellent traditional features and may be worthy of refurbishment. Hedgerow could be planted along the wire and post fencing located across from the hospital. Whilst there are many attractive shopfronts in the town, a few need to be painted

and the Gaiety Cinema needs to be refurbished. On-going development in the town looks promising and we note with interest the number of applications for planning permission for further developments. We look forward to future visits to Carrick-On-Shannon.