

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 17-06-2000

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2000 | Mark Awarded 1999 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 28 | 28 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 32 | 31 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 31 | 31 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 20 | 20 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 30 | 28 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 14 | 15 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 24 | 23 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 27 | 27 |
| General Impression | 10 | 7 | 7 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 213 | 210 |

Shannonbridge, County Offaly

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for the completed application form, three-year plan that was comprehensive and concise. The village map, which indicated areas of work in progress and planned developments over the next three years, made the job of the adjudicator a little less demanding. There is a very good practical working relationship between the committee, Offaly County Council and the ESB and the results are visible in the village and its surrounds. The planned developments under the various headings should be undertaken within the agreed time framework, as they are central to the progress of the village over the next number of years.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

This section embraces a number of very important elements as laid out in the competition criteria. The Committee in tandem with other relevant parties has put in a concerted effort to encourage villagers to work within those aforementioned criteria. The result of this collective approach is bearing fruit as the village streetscape was impressive on what was a sultry summers evening. It was noticeable that a number of premises were either being renovated or newly constructed in keeping with original street design. Some buildings were in very good condition, The Jetty especially its washrooms, Fitzpatricks, Morans with its excellent shop front and of course the beautifully kept Church in the village centre. I would discuss plans with both Eircom and the ESB to come up with an acceptable alternative to all the poles and criss-crossing wires; these are an eyesore and do take away from the natural attractiveness of the Village. There are also a few derelict buildings and unsightly remnants of other days to be seen. Even one derelict building is one too many.

LANDSCAPING

The standard in this section was quite good with trees pruned and green areas well maintained. The ongoing landscaping work been undertaken at the Jetty area was noted, the addition of bedding plants will add to the attractiveness of the area.

The tree-lined road to the Generating Station is very impressive and also extremely well maintained. The Jetty and surrounds has some very effective arrangements set off by mature trees. The Park or Village Green opposite the Church could be enhanced somewhat by the inclusion of

little planting schemes; this is a focal point in the village and should be more eye-catching. The base areas around the trees near Rose Cottage and in front of the Health Centre need to be refreshed.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Shannonbridge has all the attributes necessary for a worthwhile Wildlife project. It would be beneficial if the committees as part of the three-year plan could develop such a project. Local environmental enthusiasts should be consulted to assist in putting together a wildlife project in conjunction with the local school. You also have access to experienced personnel from the Central Fisheries Board.

LITTER CONTROL

It is good to see that the school children have been enlisted to undertake the regular clean up sessions. In actual fact, kids take more pride in their local areas than some adults simply because youthful enthusiasm hasn't been stifled by cynicism. Keep up the good work in this particular category just be careful to make sure that hidden areas do not become litter havens.

TIDINESS

Litter control and tidiness tend to go together but, unfortunately, despite the best efforts of committee and business people, there were a number of obvious examples of untidiness that need to be addressed and put right. The footpath on the Roscommon end of the bridge was untidy with too much weed growth. The Lock House had some weed growth on the roof and from crevices in the stonework. The overgrown site adjacent to the derelict house in the centre of the village is a bit of an eyesore, the committee should make an approach to the owner to do something positive with the place, the adjudicator appreciates that this may be a sensitive local issue.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

All residential areas were well-kept, tidy communal areas with some nice individual premises and gardens. It would be unfair to identify one over the other, suffice to say that the standard was high and the residents are to be commended for the collective effort put in.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Again the standard was very good with the internal road from the Generating Station very impressive. Hedgerows were sensitively treated to accommodate the nesting season and to encourage the proliferation of other forms of wildlife.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The village has done well in the competition especially over the last number of years and no doubt this has given various local organisations the impetus to contribute to the Tidy Towns effort. The Committee are to be commended for the manner in which this local positive energy has been harnessed for the betterment of Shannonbridge.