

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 11-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	35
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	31	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	21
Litter Control	40	32	31
Tidiness	20	15	16
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	219	216

Shinrone, County Offaly

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for completed entry form with additional notes and updated Development plan – this documentation was very useful on the day of adjudication. The fact that you work in a meaningful way with the Local Authority, Shannon Development, FAS, the ESB and the local School is to be commended. We also noted that in 1999 you availed of the assistance of the Students Summer Jobs Scheme and of Offaly Leader 11.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Churches and School were well presented. The new clock on the Church of Ireland was noted – it actually stuck six o'clock whilst the visit was in progress. The new stone walls throughout the village, with seating incorporated, were admired. The two religious monuments at the top of the village were well presented. In the village the Liffey Mills/Hardware Store and surrounds were well presented and the traditional public house R. Spain. The TOP Service Station was well kept and also Tierney's Pub and the adjacent house – sign painting was taking place at the pub during adjudication. Unfortunately, the old garage and petrol pumps with broken windows and Halla an Paroiste in the centre of the village are bringing you down and a long term strategy for both these premises should be considered – see the Tidy Towns manual for direction regarding action in cases such as these. On the outskirts of the village, the Castle Bar with its lovely hanging baskets and the Garda Station with its colourfully planted flower bed are contributing to the overall effort. We note that you were recipients of a Millennium Award from Shannon Development and plan to renovate a pre-famine house on the Cloughjordan road with the monies received.

LANDSCAPING

The planting of trees and cotoneaster at the Community Hall was noted – when better established these will soften this area considerably. The grassed areas and tree planting (especially the copper beech) on the approach roads was looking well and maturing nicely. Also the well protected trees which have been planted within the village. The landscaping at the housing estate past the Church was admired and the use of wild daisies and mountbretia here shows imagination. The grassed area at the other housing estate near the Shinrone Enterprise centre was nicely cut and developed for picnics with the tree planting here also maturing well. The planted area with lanterns on the

Roscrea approach was admired. However, on this approach the membrane under the gravel on the left hand side nearer the village was visible and unsightly. The wooden planters used throughout the village are attractive – residents should be encouraged to avoid plastic containers. It was good to see the planters at the School being watered during adjudication – this is an example of Tidy Towns in action.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Thank you for a copy of the Wildlife Survey undertaken and also notes on your activities in this area during the year which included the maintenance of the riverside area, the planting of native trees and berry bearing shrubs, appropriate hedge cutting and continued development of the Wildlife Garden behind Shinrone National School, involving young children in this project.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter bins are placed strategically throughout the village. We also noted that you took part in an Offaly Clean-Up Week with the assistance of Offaly Co. Council and that the Committee undertake a regular clean up with FAS workers. There was little evidence of littering on the day of adjudication and it would appear that you have raised the general awareness of this problem throughout the village.

TIDINESS

Shinrone was quite neat and tidy except for the derelict areas mentioned above. There was also an untidy skip with an old mattress on top in the centre of the village but no doubt this was moved fairly quickly. Kerbsides were relatively weed free but outside some private houses needed attention. Also the graveyard was well presented but the area outside the wall was a little weedy. An abandoned car on the Roscrea approach takes from this area.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Most private houses on the approach roads and throughout the town are fully contributing to the Tidy Towns efforts (painting of houses was taking place during adjudication). However, it should be remembered that walls and gates are as important as the house when decorating.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Signage is good throughout the village and most kerbsides were weed free. Visible side walls and gables also need attention as well as the front aspect of a premises.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

There has been very impressive work undertaken in Shinrone over the last number of years. To progress further in the competition there now has to be further attention to detail by all the community. Also, the more obvious black spots in the village would need to be addressed.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (10/08/00)

As a one-time frequent visitor to Shinrone, it was a real pleasure when coming as adjudicator for the first time this August to see the very impressive improvements which have been made in the village over a comparatively short period. These have been enumerated by the first adjudicator, and the locations where further work is needed have also been pointed out: on reading the entry form, it is clear that the Committee is aware of these and is doing its best to address them. The skip and abandoned car noted earlier had been removed, but weeds had grown up on verges and in several entrances to properties. It was very encouraging to read the Wildlife Survey and to see how this section of the Competition is valued. Extra marks are very hard to come by at the top end of the Competition, and Shinrone has done remarkably well.