

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 01-08-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	46	45
The Built Environment	40	33	31
Landscaping	40	34	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	22
Litter Control	40	24	23
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	29
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	236	230

Carrick-on-Shannon, County Leitrim

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Ireland's premier inland resort was looking splendid on a sunny and warm afternoon. The scrapbook provided by the Tidy Towns Committee was expertly presented, very detailed and easy to follow - together with the very attractive and colourful map the task of adjudicating was most enjoyable. Such presentation mirrors the commitment and dedication of a progressive and really focused Tidy Towns Committee. The ever increasing number of developments within the town will benefit greatly the economic and social progress of Carrick-on-Shannon. However, it is important that developers are fully aware of the Tidy Towns effort and respond by giving full co-operation.

New developments to-date are most impressive and finished to a very high standard of excellence – all contribute significantly to the overall environmental improvements now achieved. You would appear to have an excellent working relationship with Leitrim County Council, M.R.D. and FAS - long may this continue. You have again performed well this year and the completion of on-going works is something to look forward to.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Landmark Hotel and adjoining shops – not yet occupied except for Kelly Travel are striking in presentation – the colour co-ordination is excellent and the landscaping at the Hotel is tidily presented. Shop fronts continued to improve and this is most encouraging. The market yard is not yet finished but was busy on adjudication day. The Clock Tower, Age-to-Age Sculpture, Rowing Club, Council Offices, Tourist Office, Bush Hotel, Joe Lowes and Hartly Manor all looked well.

Buildings of historical interest blend in nicely with the streetscape and the excellent display of window boxes and hanging baskets add great colour and should be used more extensively. Pity the "County Hotel" which if not attended to will develop a state of dereliction. The Old Courthouse needs attention and the proposal to develop the building into an Arts Centre is very positive. Churches, Hospital, Community School, Scoil Na Maighe Muire were all presented well with in many cases window boxes, sensible planting and well cared for surrounds the main features. The newly planted trees at the hospital will enhance greatly the spacious grounds. A good performance under this heading has been rewarded – well done.

LANDSCAPING

The amenity park across the river from Emerald Star is nicely presented, as is the parking area and grassed river bank adjacent the Tourist Office. The planting on the Dublin Road is most attractive, however, again the roundabout has not yet

been replanted. The high trees dominate this approach and create a boulevard. A nice and welcoming introduction to Carrick on Shannon.

Many residential areas were beautifully landscaped and those deserving a mention are Shannon Court, Bush Hotel (Garden to rear) and Shannon Lodge. Landscaping continues to improve and the many displays of colourful hanging baskets and window boxes add greatly to the environmental presentation of the town.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The comments in last years' report still apply. Seek the advice and guidance of a local wildlife expert to identify opportunities for suitable projects under this heading.

LITTER CONTROL

With the exception of incidental litter in the area of Bridge Street and the Market Centre, Carrick on Shannon was almost litter free on adjudication day. MRD new litterbins were prominent in many areas of town and the sponsors are commended for their support.

TIDINESS

The parking area opposite Park Lane House has an untidy surface and the access road to School House Apartments is in urgent need of resurfacing. Wooden fencing on the Leitrim Road is broken in parts and needs repairing. There is an untidy area to the side of R.C. Church and the rust iron gate beside Keeney's is still an eyesore. In general, Carrick-on-Shannon has a tidy appearance despite the many minor and major developments that are currently taking place within the town.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Housing estates in general were well presented and the Shannon Court Apartment Complex was par excellence in all round presentation. Ayrfield, Shannon Lodge and Landmark Court Apartments also deserve mention. Oaklands is not yet complete and it is to be hoped that the many housing schemes under construction will be landscaped and completed in line with planning requirements. With so many estates in the town perhaps the Tidy Towns Committee should give consideration to organising a Tidy Estates Competition. The adjudicator noted many private houses on the periphery of the town with colourful and well-matured gardens.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

A general improvement under this heading was noted in the area of Emerald Star and County Council Offices. Major road works are still ongoing on Boyle approach and when finished will enhance this area greatly. Road re-surfacing near the Leisure Centre, Ayrfield and M.B. N. A was very much in progress on adjudication day. As already mentioned the tall trees on the Dublin Road create a boulevard entrance to the town and are a very prominent feature of this approach. Some

back areas still need attention and the presentation of street furniture should be monitored on a regular basis. The Clock Tower and Age-to-Age Sculpture were much admired.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Carrick-on-Shannon is progressing well. You have great support from M.R.D. and state agencies and this should be encouraged further. Improve your efforts under Wildlife and continue to work in line with recommendations contained in your development plan.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (01/08/01)

There is a real vibrancy in the air in Carrick-on-Shannon, a real get-up-and-go feeling. Unfortunately, as signalled in your response to the questionnaire, 'the town is undergoing major development', and this inhibits tidiness in the sense required in the Competition. It is very clear how things will look when completed, but that day is postponed year after year as yet another enterprise gets under way. Nonetheless, the additional marks awarded are significant; one just wishes, however, that the day of completeness had arrived and Carrick could take its deserved place at the very top. The Market Yard, as expected, is looking splendid, a genuine and delightful restoration after decades of unaccountable destitution: this is a genuine town-centre landmark. (It can not be entered for a Heritage Award until entirely completed and operational.) The MBNA Centre already blends well with its environment, and the planting in its vicinity is impressive. Major roadworks on the Roscommon side will greatly improve this approach to the town before long. On a few random details noted on second adjudication day (but not resulting in a diminution of the marks already proposed), it was a pity to see weeds, and a heap of gravel that had obviously been there for some time, on the ramp leading down to the handsome Tourist Office; nothing growing in the square planters across the road; black plastic sheeting showing through the plantings at the entrance to the Landmark Hotel & Leisure Centre, giving a shoddy appearance to this key location; considerable litter at the Tennis Court; a lengthy sagging post-and-wire fence opposite the beautifully kept Hospital... Best wishes to the Committee, to the official bodies involved, and the individual business-people and householders in their unstinting work.