

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **CARRICKMACROSS**  
County : **MONAGHAN**  
Category : **D**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 25-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	45	45
The Built Environment	40	34	34
Landscaping	40	38	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	26	26
Litter Control	40	30	27
Tidiness	20	14	12
Residential Areas	30	27	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	30
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>247</b>

## **Carrickmacross, County Monaghan**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for your comprehensive supporting material and map, they were very helpful in setting the scene and highlighting the varied work that takes place behind the scenes throughout the year. Your continued and very active involvement with relevant local bodies is commendable, as is your promotional campaign and community involvement. The committee has proven that it can re-evaluate its working plan and refocus its priorities.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The committee have identified the many unique and historical features and buildings that contribute to the built environment of the town. The town features from the simple old Mass House to the Magnificent Harry Clarke windows all contribute to the environment and it is good to see developments planned or started on some of the old problem areas. Many premises looked well maintained and presented though these tend to highlight the premises that still need some attention. The Churches, newly refurbished Court House, Hotel, Bank of Ireland with its pretty summer flowers, and the Market Area all looked well. There are a great variety of business premises with some sympathetic restorations and smart shop fronts noted throughout the town. Some of these have maintained their original features, sash windows, and are using flowers and bright paintwork to enhance the overall impression of the streetscape. There have been improvements in the car-parking situation since my last visit, though I do reiterate last year's comments on the open area past the excellent car park at the Bridewell. The public toilets also need some attention. There is a lot of merchandise on the footpaths in the Main Street, which need to be tidied or removed as it could interfere with access for those with disabilities.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Some effective tree planting was noted throughout the town and on the approach roads. It appears that all the summer flowers were not out at the time of adjudication; an empty tyre feature on the Dublin road needs to be planted or removed. A lovely little water and flower feature at the Market View caught the eye and some other business's also had some flower features, which contribute to the overall effect. The agricultural equipment at Druminbeg are an interesting feature in the middle of the town, though the perennial beds in the adjoining car park need to be filled out. The planting and beds at the lake look very well, enhancing this lovely area, though some of the picnic furniture needs a little repair. The new stone features are an original idea and look well.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The committee have an important role in identifying, preserving and suitably enhancing

the natural environment throughout the town. Many other entrants would be envious of the lovely Lisinisk Lake. The committee should consider an appropriate information board or simple signs identifying the wildlife features. Perhaps a Nature Trail to include the new Convent development, where it is good to see that you are in consultation at the design stage of this development. Open green areas, hedgerows, trees all offer additional opportunities for consideration under this heading. Consult with the relevant local experts and try and involve the local schools and children in your plans for this important area of the competition.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

The committee's re-assessment of the litter strategy and their practical and considered solutions are noted and appreciated. Your plentiful bins are well maintained. There was sporadic litter throughout the town, particularly on the main street, on the approach roads, in some of the estates and on the path behind the Court House. There was some litter in the basement opening at the Garda station and down the side alley here also. A bin is also needed at the Car Park by Lisinisk Lake. The committee and community must remain vigilant in this very important area.

## **TIDINESS**

The committee has faced the challenge of dereliction both imaginatively and with persistence and it is good to see resolution on some sites. Some of this development may expose previously unseen back areas and these must be handled appropriately. The Emmet Road Health Centre railings need a repaint. The entrance to the Council yard past the Market Square is visibly untidy in an area that you have worked hard at. There are weeds in the gutters of some of the buildings on the main street. Screening gates or hedges are already being used effectively in the town, but there are some back areas that need attention. Some finger post and MPH signs need to be cleaned, or repainted.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

There are many well-maintained houses throughout the town and on the approach roads. Some lovely flower features, hedges, gardens and boundaries were noted. Well done to the individuals concerned for their hard work as these all make a valuable contribution to the overall impression of the town. Your work with local residents associations is an excellent pro-active approach that continues to show results. The name features on some estates look well, but many developments remain unidentified! The stone cottages opposite the Church look well. The tree planting, perennial beds and stone features were noted at Convent View, Upper Drumminather and the adjoining estate. The Parc Uisce feature in the lovely Crann Nua development is a beautiful feature, congratulations to those involved. Some fine benches, a lovely rose bed and a reseeded lawn caught the eye outside a row of houses on the way out to the large Foxfield development. This estate has some expansive green areas, offering an ideal opportunity for tree planting; hopefully the developer here will remove the old truck containers. It is important to work with the developers of new estates to ensure that they

are finished appropriately. Maghross Grove also looked very well with its perennial planting, tubs, picnic area and bruscar bins. The Clough Valley estate had some lovely landscape features but some planters had some inconsistent planting and some were bare, particularly at the sheltered homes. The Play area would be the envy of many towns, but there was some rubbish here. Some lovely rose bushes and varied trees were noted in the Alderwood estate.

## **ROADS STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

Many of the approach roads have tidy verges, nicely faced hedges and good footpaths and road surfaces and your improvements were noted. It would be good to tidy the verges past the first graveyard on the Dundalk road, which has some poor road surface in places. The mural at Daly's adds a lovely touch of colour on this road. The verges need attention on the Dublin road but the paths here are good and weed free. The Kingscourt junction on this road had a nice feature at one of the many painted ventilation shafts in the town. The road surface on the Kingscourt road was poor in places, and the walls and verges on the road at the back entrance to Crann Nua, need to be tided. A farmyard in this area could tidy its presentation quite simply. The Shercock road and the recent work on the Ballybay road junction look well. The Ballybay road with its lovely copper trees presents a nice first impression though the grass verges need to be tided and the 40 MPH signs could be replaced. The Derry road also looked well but there is an opportunity for some landscaping at the town sign. The Crossmaglen road has some poor road surface, tidy verges but there are some weeds on the good footpath here. The Carrickmacross sign could be cleaned and tided on this road.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The Committee has assessed the needs of their busy vibrant town and are tackling the problems in an inclusive way, working with, and optimising, the input of local bodies. The progress and presentation of the town is a testament to the continued hard work of the committee. Continued application and attention to detail will merit its rewards.

## **SECOND ADJUDICATION (10/08/2002)**

Carrickmacross enjoys a beautiful setting in drumlin country and situated on the edge of a lake. The town is presented to a standard which complements its setting. Litter control was very good on the day of second adjudication and flower displays were in full bloom. Landscaped areas are maturing well and stands of mature trees are quite magnificent. The lakeshore is superb in presentation and is a wonderful amenity for the community of the town.

We look forward to the redevelopment of the Market Square. Back areas have been steadily improved in presentation over the last few years. A few signs around the town need to be refurbished. The walls of the 'Centra' premises and other buildings which form the retaining walls of a lane to a car-park need to be upgraded. Wire-scape along

O'Neill street is particularly bad. Car-parks in general are well presented and the one at Lr. Drummond was admired. Many new housing developments are in the course of construction and it is anticipated that these will be presented to the same high standard we have come to expect from Carrickmacross.