

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BANAGHER**
County : **OFFALY**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 16-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	32
The Built Environment	40	34	34
Landscaping	40	33	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	21
Litter Control	40	32	31
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	224	222

Banagher, County Offaly

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Banagher is welcome to the 2002 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your completed suggestions, together with completed application form and map, which facilitated adjudication greatly. It would be helpful if you could submit a summary of your three to five year development plan with each year's submission as these details are not available to subsequent adjudicators. You obviously have a focused approach to the development of Banagher which was a pleasure to adjudicate this year. Congratulations on work accomplished to date and we wish you luck with future developments.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Library looks really well and the carpark is well marked out with good landscaping and stone sculptures. This is a nice introduction into the heart of the village. Immediately opposite there is an old vacant looking building beside Corrigan's Bar and this could be upgraded. The side façade of Corrigan's Bar is drab and there is an old rusty remains of a sign which needs to be removed. Tinans Foodmarket looks terrible as do the adjoining buildings. The Church of Ireland and its grounds are attractively presented with a good stone boundary wall. There are no flags on the Community School Gairm Scoil but planting looks well. The school and boundary wall could be painted to freshen them up. St. Rynagh's Primary School, again has no flags on its posts, but looks well also. The presentation of St. Paul's Parish Hall was compromised a little by weed growth. The relatively new development of as yet un-named shops, includes one which appears to be a newsagents and has a plethora of Lotto stickers in the window which should be removed. The Bank of Ireland looks well with neat grounds. The plastic signs of the Angelo Take-Away should be removed, also that of the adjacent William Lyons Lounge Bar. The D'Alton premises appears to be vacant, are there any plans for this? The Banagher House also looks vacant and it, together with its adjoining premises, needs to be renovated. The Crank House Visitors Centre and Hostel looks quite well but its 'Bord Fáilte' sign needs to be replaced. Stella's Hairstylists is nicely presented, but the mock tiling façade of the two adjacent buildings should be discouraged. Quite a number of buildings in the Main Street need to be touched up. The GAA property is drab looking and needs repainting. The carpark is well kept and litter free but there is some weed growth and quite nice landscaping, a little more maintenance is necessary here.

LANDSCAPING

St. Rynagh's Primary School features nice landscaping. The green areas to the front of the old Boathouse Restaurant are well kept, but the area immediately behind needs further attention. The Martello tower, just over the bridge is colourful with its display of wildflowers. The concrete wall of the GAA in Cuba Avenue is nicely planted which softens the effect substantially.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The bridge looks well with attractive lampstandards and planting. The railings here, however, need to be freshened. Shannon Bank Park, with its picnic benches and seats, was very well presented. It was almost litter free on adjudication day and features attractive landscaping. It was also a pleasure to note the river being used by fishing enthusiasts at the time of adjudication. The carpark was tidy, but perhaps spaces could be marked out. The public toilets here are well maintained on the outside, but this standard unfortunately does not extend to the interior. The Pitch and Putt course here was neat and in good condition.

LITTER CONTROL

Overall the town is practically litter free. The marina and Shannon Bank Park looked particularly well in this regard. Your “tough, new litter warden” certainly does seem to be making his mark. Congratulations.

TIDINESS

The front of the Marina was very well looked after, with some nice landscaping and tidy but the entire back area was a different matter, with old rusted wheel, machinery, barrels etc. and was hugely overgrown with weed growth. Some grass cutting had been left behind on some of the approach roads, which look unsightly when discoloured.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There are some nicely presented houses out past the Church of Ireland and the majority of the boundary walls are equally presented. The newly painted houses at Fort Falkland are stunning – congratulations! There are some well presented houses in Cuba Cottages but a lot of boundary walls need attention. There are a couple of incidental green sites which are hugely overgrown and one features an old trailer. Footpaths and kerbs are weedy. The two adjoining houses almost opposite the Top station on the right hand side of the road badly need to be painted and one also features an old trailer parked in front. A pink house right beside the Top station urgently needs painting. The new residential development looks promising and we hope that you receive much support from the new residents regarding their own properties and the town in general.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The nameplate from the Cloghan road is dirty and there are several piles of rubble on the left hand side of the road together with an enormously overgrown green roadside edge. Residential properties here are well presented and the approach features good stone walls, young landscaping behind and neat graveled areas. There are some overgrown roadside areas in front of fields, these need to be cut back. With the notable exception of the mounds of rubble, this is an excellent entrance to the town. The

boundary of the Banagher Water Treatment Plant needs to be painted, although there is nice landscaping and the grass in front is well kept. A little weeding could also be done and the railings here also on top of the wall could be painted. There are good stone walls entering the village but unfortunately a lot of rough growth and weeds at the base of these. A few direction signs on the Harbour Road could be cleaned. The Galway approach is overgrown and could be cut back substantially.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Banagher is a pleasant and interesting town to visit. There is plenty of historical interest in the town, which no doubt contributes to your 40,000+ visitors each year and which gives Banagher a strong identity. You are progressing well in the competition and we look forward to many repeat visits.