

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 15-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	28
The Built Environment	40	33	33
Landscaping	40	33	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	31	31
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	24	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	219	218

Shannonbridge, County Offaly

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Shannonbridge is welcome to the 2002 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your completed application form and map which facilitated adjudication. Congratulations on the support you receive from the local authority and community which is paying dividends. The village looked well on adjudication day and your focused efforts are evidenced throughout Shannonbridge.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Killeen's Village Tavern looked well and was being cleaned at the time of adjudication. All plastic signage, such as the neon 'Carlsberg' sign on the Lukers Bar, the 'Burma' sign outside Moran's, the 'Guinness' signs on the Bog Oak Bar and Restaurant and the same on Flynn's Bar should be removed together with the 'Guinness' window stickers and beer barrels outside Flynn's. The Nicky Nugent Family Butcher could be painted to freshen it up and the building for sale adjacent needs painting also. The Visitor Centre and Tourist Information building look very well from the front but the seating outside needs to be replaced. The gable wall of the Lukers premises needs attention. The petrol pumps opposite Nicky Nugent's should be removed or renovated. The Post Office and The Health Centre are neat in appearance. Morans is nicely painted with a nice hanging basket. The church is nicely painted but its boundary wall badly needs attention. The Oliver Plunkett National School is drab in appearance and its roadside area needs a good sweeping. The Teac Cúinne Ui Falluin property looks terrific with its flower tubs and window boxes. The newly painted Bog Oak Bar looks well.

LANDSCAPING

The planting on the left side of the road on entering the village from Tullamore looks well. There is no need for flowers to be planted at the base of trees (in St. Kieran's Park). Tree planting at the Health Centre and the shrub bed at Rachra Park is noted. The grass verges in this estate are neat, but parts could perhaps be reseeded.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The bridge over the river is being well maintained, however the free standing lampstandards all need painting. The large green open space was neatly cut at the time of adjudication. The picnic table, could be painted as could the boundary fence. You have not mentioned any wildlife of the village, and in particular the waterside, in your submission. Have you undertaken a wildlife survey of this or any other areas? We look forward to the completion of work on the jetty. The overgrown green space to the left just beyond the bridge, going down to the jetty will need to be cut back for this area to be presented to the required standard.

LITTER CONTROL

The village was largely litter free on the day of adjudication. Your efforts in this regard are very successful and the adults and children involved in regular clean-ups should be commended! Keep up the good work.

TIDINESS

The old derelict house on entering the village on the right hand side of the road from Tullamore could be tidied and painted. The relatively new footpaths just opposite the church are very weedy. The side area to the Visitor's Centre looks nice but there are still quite a lot of weeds in evidence. The old corrugated farm building on the left hand side of the road just beyond St. Kieran's Park is unattractive. The boundary wall should be painted, old rusty gates replaced and the area outside should be swept. Large trees should be planted to adequately screen the old farm building. This could be included in your landscaping plan.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

A house adjacent to Killeen's, with its brightly painted red front door looks well but its boundary wall needs attention. A pebble dash house opposite the Lukers premises badly needs painting. Other residential properties could be whitewashed / painted beside the Riverview B&B. The drab looking bungalow located three doors up from Nicky Nugent's needs attention. One or two houses opposite the church need painting with almost all of the boundary walls. St. Kieran's Park looks very well, all of the houses are nicely painted and the grounds are well maintained. There are many well presented houses on the right hand side of the road on entering the village from the Cavan road. The presentation of Rachra Park is not as good as this estate features a lot of weeds along kerbs and along the base of the large retaining wall. Many houses and most of the boundary fencing need to be painted.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Wirescape in the village is visually obtrusive, try to have this ducted, has the local authority been approached regarding this? The entrance from Ballinasloe is a little overgrown and weedy. The footpaths on entering and small low stone wall also feature weed growth. The roads signs and 'Welcome' sign are well presented. Parts of the stone wall on entering are breached and should be refurbished. The entrance from the Cavan approach is quite good, the new footpaths look very well as do namesigns. The Clonmacnoise road is quite overgrown. Stretches of stone wall here could be featured. The signs for 'Blackwater Railway' and 'Ballinasloe' on this road are almost entirely obscured by overgrowth. Most of the signposts in the village are well presented with the exception of one group of fingerposts just opposite Teac Cúinne Ui Falluin. The flag posts could also be painted and should feature flags. The road by the church is very well kept and has been neatly cut but cuttings must be removed before they become

discoloured. The Eircom Telephone Kiosk needs freshening. The water fountain outside of the Visitor's Centre also needs painting. The public toilets and showers down by the waterside are well presented. The Battlements renovation (work in progress) looks promising.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

There is obviously a lot of interest in the development of Shannonbridge and a tremendous amount of work is in progress. Keep up the good effort. We look forward to charting your progress with repeat visits.

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