

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 14-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	38
The Built Environment	40	29	28
Landscaping	40	31	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	22
Litter Control	40	32	31
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	8	7
TOTAL MARK	300	224	220

Shinrone, County Offaly

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Shinrone is welcome to the 2002 Tidy Towns Competition. You mention in your submission that the community is taking more pride in their village, this is very evident and your efforts to gain support, including draw, Students Summer Job Scheme and Offaly Clean Up week are commendable and paying dividends. Well done.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Tierney's is very well painted and has colourful window boxes and hanging baskets. The 'Guinness' sign here looks well but the 'Carlsberg' and 'Tierney Bar and Lounge' plastic neon signs must be removed. The plastic neon signs of the Foodmarket together with the 'HB', 'National Lottery' and huge 'Cornetto' outside in addition to the 'Fame and Fortune' and other stickers in the window all need to be removed. We look forward to the appropriate redevelopment of the site of the old parish hall, as it currently looks untidy. The Post Office and Funeral Directors is nicely presented. The boundary stone wall, which incorporates seating, in the village centre is attractive, as is the adjacent planted area with water pump, beside the Top garage, which itself is well cared for. Geraldine's Beauty Salon is nicely painted as are all the adjacent houses and boundary walls and houses opposite. The R. Spain property is located at a very prominent location but is a little drab looking and should be painted, but the planting and seating outside are very welcome. The Clover Lodge Nursing Home looks exceptionally well with its neat landscaped gardens and free standing modern lampstandards. The school and boundary wall look well together with its young planting. The GAA property is also well presented and the car park is litter free and almost clear of weeds, with just a small amount beside the planting. The carparking spaces are faded, however, and this could be a project for the future. The untidy back yard to the premises adjacent to the GAA carpark could be better screened and this boundary wall painted. The Library looks well as does the Health Centre, well done. Congratulations on the new footpaths at Tierney's.

LANDSCAPING

Landscaping in the area of the Eircom Telephone Exchange is very nice but the grass could be kept a little shorter and the mucky area outside could be reseeded. Planting outside the Garda station is nice. There are lots of incidental planted areas. The entrance to the residential area on the Birr road looks well with well cut grass and seating, but the boundary wall here badly needs painting. The commemorative planting on the Brosna road is very nice and the row of Copper Beech trees look terrific. This whole area is very well maintained. Landscaping and lampstandards on the Roscrea road look excellent.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

We note your efforts to leave wildflowers and grasses on the Ballingarry road. This adjudicator unfortunately did not have details of the results of your wildlife survey. Would it be possible to erect a plaque in the village displaying these details?

LITTER CONTROL

The village was largely litter free on the day of adjudication, despite the absence of litter bins at picnic tables, these should be provided as soon as possible. Your efforts under this heading are commendable.

TIDINESS

There are weedy kerbs and footpaths along the Birr Road. Grass cuttings on entering the town from the Birr road should be removed. Parts of the graveyard are very overgrown and quite weedy, but the boundary wall looks well. Sprayed discoloured weeds need to be removed also. Overall the village had an air of untidiness.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The housing estate along and adjacent to the Ballingarry road is well cared for, only a few boundary walls need to be painted, but on the whole the area is very neat. A very long red boundary wall out the Cloughjordan Road badly needs attention. The small residential estate of Annebrook View is well cared for and the incidental planting provides a good splash of colour. The terrace of houses opposite the R. Spain property look terrific with newly painted frontages and window boxes, congratulations to those concerned. There are a couple of houses on the Birr road which feature unfinished gardens, hopefully these will be finished to the same good standard as others on this road and have well presented boundary walls. One house in the estate from the Birr road appears to have an abandoned car and mobile home in its garden together with an old shed, all of which are unsightly. There are as many unattractive properties as well cared for ones in this estate and many gates need attention. A lot of well cared for houses and gardens on the Brosna Road, including the residential estate with the picnic table.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The entrance from the Ballingarry Road is neat in appearance, unfortunately grass cuttings have been left behind to discolour, spoiling the effect. There is also young tree planting on entering the village from this approach. The roadside opposite the Eircom Telephone Exchange looks well and there is a brightly painted seat and some nice planting beside. A broken footpath a little further up this road should be replaced. There is more nice seating out the Cloughjordan Road together with a water pump and planting. Well maintained grass verges and stone walls were noted here. The old derelict cottages here do detract from the efforts made on this approach and there appears to be no more work accomplished on the pre-famine cottage. Perhaps you

could let us know what is happening here. There are lovely stone walls throughout the village and plenty of well presented seating. The free standing lampstandards with planting are a wonderful feature of the village. The 'Shinrone Parish' sign is colourful, clean and informative. The stone wall and planter just before the church on the Birr Road look well, but again car parking spaces could be marked out again as these have faded. The wire and post fencing across the road from the graveyard should be replaced. There are no nameplates on either the Brosna or Ballingarry approach roads. These should be provided.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Shinrone was a pleasure to adjudicate and looked very well on a sunny June afternoon. The committee and residents are obviously very dedicated. We look forward to charting your progress in the coming years.