

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Scarriff**

Ref: **692**

County: **Clare**

Mark: **203**

Category: **B**

Date: **27/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	32
The Built Environment	40	27	26
Landscaping	40	27	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	29	28
Tidiness	20	16	15
Residential Areas	30	22	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	24
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	203	197

Overall Developmental Approach:

Scarriff continues to improve and no doubt this is because of the partnership approach between FAS, Clare County Council and Scarriff Community Council. There are a number of areas where more work and influence are needed in order to reach your aims and we would suggest that more attention to detail should be a priority in the future. Again, there was no three year plan accompanying your entry form and this should be a "must" for 2004 if you wish to progress further. A simple one page plan setting out your targets would focus your work to a much greater extent.

The Built Environment:

Most business premises in the town were quite well presented with a number of exceptions (including the Post Office whose signage needed refurbishment). It must be remembered that gable ends of premises are also visible. The Church and School were well presented as was the Teagasc Office, the Fire Station and the Bank of Ireland where the rose beds are were again admired. Finsa entrance was also neat and tidy and the planted containers enhanced this area. On the loop road to Mountshannon the Ambulance Station was well presented and hopefully the new development adjacent to this will also improve this area. It was noted that the Garage on this road was occupied and perhaps the owner to be persuaded to tidy up this premises and surrounds.

Landscaping:

Your major landscaping project on the Feakle road has been completed to a high standard and the adjudicator spotted a tourist from the UK catching perch here during the visit. Having said this project has been completed to a high standard it must be added that it has not been maintained to a high standard. Very necessary weeding had only just commenced on the colourfully planted areas, where there was a danger of the plants being swallowed up by the weeds. A much earlier and continuous work programme is needed. Other areas of planting were noted around the town and the marigolds planted on the loop road brightened up this road considerably.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The riverside park contributes under this category but there is scope for a more specific wildlife project to be undertaken in the future, perhaps in conjunction with a local school.

When the Adjudicator visited Scarriff, Derek Davis happened to be on RTE talking about Scarriff, Mountshannon and Whitegate. It was encouraging to hear that through a local initiative a hatchery has been put in place and that trout are now making a come back on Lough Derg. No doubt this will have a significant impact on the area.

Litter Control:

Your work in this area is paying off – the signs regarding littering were noted and also the strategic placement of litter bins. There was very little litter to be seen on the day – well done.

Tidiness:

Kerbs were weed free throughout and also at the base of the walls on the loop road, previously commented upon. However, the proliferation of plastic signage on the main streets gives Scarriff (essentially a very traditional Irish town) an artificial appearance.

Residential Areas:

Private houses in and around Scarriff were contributing to the Tidy Towns effort. It must be remembered that surround walls are also important.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Outside of the plastic signage previously mentioned, other directional signage was mostly good throughout Scarriff. It was noted that road surfacing had taken place on the road by the Church and also on the Feakle approach and no doubt this activity will extend to other areas in time. The approach roads were well trimmed back.

General Impression:

A busy town – the capital of East Clare – with much to offer. Forward planning and a much earlier start to your work programme are recommended.