

# Tidy Towns Competition 2003

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Shannon**

Ref: **137**

County: **Clare**

Mark: **227**

Category: **E**

Date: **18/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	44	43
The Built Environment	40	31	31
Landscaping	40	33	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	21
Litter Control	40	27	27
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>224</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Well done with your endeavours to date in 2003. With so much change taking place in and around Shannon it must be daunting for your Committee. However it is obvious that you have continued your work and the results of this could be seen in a number of areas. The entry form, map, Plan 2002-2005 and work programme received set out your objectives in a clear and concise manner. The present situation, whereby the new approach road structures are being finalised and where the centre of the town is being enlarged and redesigned, make this a transition year for Shannon. It would be important that the Shannon Tidy Towns Committee be involved in this whole process and bring the views of the local population to the developers.

## **The Built Environment:**

In the areas of the town where change is not taking place at present most of the business premises are well maintained including Abbey House, Peach House, McDonald's, Lydl and Permanent TSB with its good planting. It was noted that the ESB shop is to close in Shannon. Outside of business premises, the Town Hall was very well maintained and the grounds nicely landscaped here. The Shannon Leisure Centre also looked well. The Schools around Shannon including Scoil Naomh Pdraig and St. Aidans were neat and tidy with planting undertaken in the grounds. St. Caimins Community School, where work has now been finalised, was excellent with its well thought out decor, extensive planting in the grounds and the piece of sculpture which is a feature of the landscaping.

## **Landscaping:**

Your considerable work under this heading shows a huge commitment and we are sure that the planting undertaken was enjoyed by the Azerbyjan Special Olympics Team which stayed in Shannon. We noted that you also undertook a special planting programme at the Town Hall due to the fact that the Town Commissioners were celebrating 21 years in 2003. This civic spirit is very commendable. The fact that you met with the Horticulturist in Clare County Council in connection with the Roundabout at the town centre is an example of the partnership approach. As mentioned, the considerable flower and shrub planting was admired and indeed were the maturing roadside trees which were very attractive. New tree planting was noted by the Sports field and this initiative in turn will leave a future legacy for the people of Shannon. The Park area was looking well but the entrance near the ESB needs some attention. There are many grassed areas around Shannon and the maintenance of these was mixed on the day of adjudication as some were cut, some were being cut and some were awaiting cutting.

An earlier and more continuous programme of grass cutting would be recommended.

## **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

We note that the County Council are undertaking a habitat survey around Shannon and also the work outlined under this category in respect of the Walking Trail and Information Display signs.

## **Litter Control:**

The signage re littering was noted. This, and the plentiful provision of litter bins - many sponsored by Aer Rianta, are proving effective as there was very little litter to be seen on the day of adjudication. Also, no doubt the the Litter Task Force and your participation in the County Council Spring Clean campaign are assisting you in achieving your objectives.

## **Tidiness:**

In view of the work being undertaken it is impossible for the town to present a tidy appearance at present but no marks would be deducted in a situation such as this. Roadside kerbs were weed free throughout. The entrance to the Graveyard was untidy. The floodlit sports area mentioned last year, still has a rather unkempt and disused appearance. Some of the unmown grass areas mentioned above obviously had not been cut for some considerable time and so presented an untidy appearance also.

## **Residential Areas:**

Shannon is very much a residential town with many pleasant, landscaped suburbs. Most of the

houses, with a few exceptions, present a well maintained appearance including their gardens. As mentioned last year, the green signs denoting the various housing estates need to be replaced or refurbished.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

In this category, again Shannon is in transition this year, with major road works taking place in a number of areas. Other roads were mostly well maintained and it was noted that the Shannon Development sign, mentioned last year, had been upgraded.

### **General Impression:**

Shannon is still a young town with the prospect of a bright future. The Tidy Towns Committee are to be congratulated on their work to date and we look forward to further progress in the future.