

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Carrick-On-Shannon**

Ref: **243**

County: **Leitrim**

Mark: **242**

Category: **C**

Date: **01/08/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	47	46
The Built Environment	40	33	33
Landscaping	40	36	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	22
Litter Control	40	23	24
Tidiness	20	15	14
Residential Areas	30	26	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	31
General Impression	10	8	7
TOTAL MARK	300	242	238

Overall Developmental Approach:

Carrick-on-Shannon in terms of development is an on going enterprise and when all of the buildings and projects are completed the result should be awe inspiring. The Tidy Towns Committee are still full of enthusiasm and ideas encouraged by the local authority and the general population. Many of the new businesses like the M.B.N.A. Credit Card Company and the Shambles Development, to mention a few, are a credit to the town. Long may it continue. The Tidy Towns Committee have supplied the adjudicator with an excellent map and scrapbook - most helpful - and we look forward to the future with confidence. Well done.

The Built Environment:

The old County Hotel has been demolished and the proposed new development to take its place is awaited. No doubt another excellent development to rival the lovely Landmark Hotel for presentation. The shop units beside the hotel are most attractive. The shops along Bridge Street are extremely well presented most notably Cox Pharmacy, Gartlands, Havana Bar, The Oars Man and the coffee shop near the bridge. The small cluster of shops on the left as you approach Bridge Street from the Shannon is charming. James McGuire Auctioneers is also worthy of mention on the main street, as is St. Mary's Catholic Church beside it. The Costello Memorial Chapel is nicely presented. Collins Solicitors has a very distinctive appearance. The Poutin Stil looks well. The Bush Hotel looks as impressive as ever and Flora Dale still has an eye catching appearance. The Joe Lowes Pub has nice hanging baskets and A & D Flowers is nicely presented. The A.C.C. building on

the Leitrim Road and the new buildings in the vicinity look well and the Health Board Community Building are well presented. Gilmartins Warehouse on the left hand side of the Leitrim Road needs attention. The M.B.N.A Building, the community school, the swimming pool and St. Patrick's Hospital are extremely well presented and form a nice impression of Carrick as you approach from Dublin. The entire marina complex is a stirring sight as one approaches the town from Sligo and Roscommon. The new courthouse and garda station are a great addition to the town.

Landscaping:

The Landscape Park area provided by M.B.N.A. is quite an achievement as are the stone walls in the vicinity. The additional car parking space in the centre field with its abundant landscaping is lovely. (Well done). Landscaping at the roundabout is lovely. The landscaping in general is impressive and the appearance of the G.A.A. Park with its lovely walls is to be admired. The Market Yard development is a credit to all concerned.

The flower display at Hatley Manor is lovely. Excellent.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The picture of swans cavorting at the marina is enchanting, unfortunately on adjudication day there were no live ones to be seen. This really should be an integral part of Carrick-on-Shannon and the recommendations in last years report should be followed up. Further action should be taken by the Tidy Towns Committee for next year and perhaps a special sub-committee should be set up to examine the situation and come up with a solution.

Litter Control:

Carrick-on-Shannon was relatively litter free on adjudication day. The key word here is relative which means that litter was still visible in parts of the town. There was some litter visible beside the civil defence building on Bridge Street. This was still there after the adjudication was over. There was some litter visible in sections on the main street. More litter was also to be seen at various other locations throughout the town. Not much however. With a little bit more effort towns people should clear up this problem. Not major but it certainly does not help the Tidy Towns effort.

Tidiness:

With all the building work which is being carried out throughout the town, the overall impression of Carrick is of a busy Shannon village making the best use of its location and setting. So while at present areas such as "St. George's Church" are receiving attention (we understand a new arts centre) and the new apartments in the vicinity of the Bush Hotel, when completed, should all add to the overall impression of tidiness in the future. Under this heading the new shop units at the Landmark Hotel create an extremely bright, colourful and tidy appearance. The clock tower and seating at the top of Bridge Street was most impressive.

Residential Areas:

Houses throughout the town centre and on the approach roads are extremely well maintained and presented. Well cared for gardens, brightly painted houses and nice walls are the order of the day and many of the houses in the new estates being built show a lot of promise for the future. Breffni Heights was well presented as was St. Mary's Close. Shannon Lodge is also worthy of comment.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads in general were reasonably well presented. Verges have been trimmed and hedgerows cut. The sandblasting at the bridge is most impressive although grass can be seen growing already at sections of the bridge. The footpaths particularly on the main street still need attention, nice concrete paths but unfinished. The new stone wall at the G.A.A. Park is lovely and

this whole area of presentation is outstanding. The entrance to Carrick-on-Shannon from Longford is splendid with it's lovely tree scape and spectacular park by M.B.N.A. in the vicinity. The Ring Road here is also eye catching and the lampposts are a treat. The Dublin Road, as it continues along the Shannon with the Landmark Hotel and development on the right, is most pleasing. The Leitrim approach also looks well with it's new housing developments. The alleyway beside Cryans is now quietly presentable. It is noted however, that the advertising hoardings on the Dublin approach have not apparently been discouraged.

General Impression:

Carrick-on-Shannon is certainly making progress. A bright town with a lively future. We look forward with anticipation.

Second Round Adjudication:

It has been exciting to watch the regeneration of Carrick-on-Shannon in recent years. The profile of the town as you come from Longford, with new housing crowning the hill, and the bright new buildings of the waterside, is most attractive and inviting. A real difficulty for the adjudicator is the continuous development - one is always 'looking forward' to the completion of it, e.g., the Town Parks or the Market Yard or (now) the County Hotel. Perhaps when that significant site is developed we will be able to view the town as a consolidated entity. (one hopes this development will enhance the fine old streetscape.) Eternal vigilance is necessary even in the best organised households: Over the summer there has been much weed growth at the far end of the Bush car park, substantial growth in the gutters of the town hall, and perfunctory maintenance of some floral displays - for example the potentially fine health bed near the bridge. In regard to the two difficulties in Litter Control, the influx of visitors on certain dates much surely be anticipated, and the provision made; as to the problem of school children, perhaps teachers could appeal to their sense of competition, in the spirit of 'we want our town to beat all the rest!' The Walking Tour booklet with its splendid line drawings is a fine example of so many initiatives associated with the Tidy Towns effort. Congratulations.