

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Shannonbridge**

Ref: **306**

County: **Offaly**

Mark: **222**

Category: **B**

Date: **04/07/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	29
The Built Environment	40	34	33
Landscaping	40	34	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	30	31
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	25	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	222	219

Overall Developmental Approach:

Shannonbridge is a riverside town with character and charm. The Committee of six are to be congratulated on the work to date, maintaining the projects already undertaken and enhancing other projects such as the new jetty. The two marinas at each side of the bridge were being utilised by cruisers during adjudication and no doubt your work is appreciated by these visitors to the village. Thank you for the map showing where work had been undertaken during the year. As required, we would suggest that you put a simple one page three year plan with your application next year. This will focus your work and may enable you to receive more co-operation from the local community and the various statutory bodies.

The Built Environment:

Many buildings in Shannonbridge were looking well including Killeens, Shannonside Lodge, the tourist information centre and Morans to mention a few. However, the old Burmah sign at Morans needs replacing. The newly painted church was admired. There were some derelict and vacant premises on the main street and some long term strategy should be considered in regard to these. Also, the disused petrol pumps on the main street should be removed. The waterside buildings were well presented and the shower area being used by visitors on the cruisers and in camper vans. The Shannonbridge generating station dominates the village on the Ballinasloe approach – perhaps the strategic planting of native species trees might screen off this station to some extent in the years to come.

Landscaping:

The various planted areas in the town and at the housing estates were admired, including the colourful bed of begonias at the entrance to the new jetty. The picnic area at the entrance to the road leading to the generating station was noted. When the work on this new road is completed perhaps this area could be enhanced and a space made to park a car near the picnic table so this facility would be used by visitors. The two areas by the riverside were nicely maintained and the attractive lamp standards on the bridge admired.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You do not mention a specific wildlife project, but the planting undertaken contributes in this category. A large flock of swans were to be seen at the opposite side of the river near the old fort.

Litter Control:

There was some litter to be seen in Shannonbridge on the day of adjudication despite the very commendable work of the children, as outlined on the entry form, and the provision of a number of litter bins. It was noted that the large waste skip at the waterside was full.

Tidiness:

The village was mostly neat and tidy (outside of the littering mentioned above) with kerbs weedfree. However, the large gravelled area in front of the old fort presented a slightly untidy aspect – there is an opportunity for some landscaping at this site, especially in view of the fact that the old fort houses a restaurant.

Residential Areas:

Private houses throughout the village were contributing to the tidy town effort in a very positive manner.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

As mentioned, a new road is being constructed to the generating station from the village and no doubt work on this will be concluded to a high standard. On the Ballinasloe approach the roadsides could have been trimmed back better. Signage, including the Ely O'Carroll Country signs and the informational display boards, was mostly good throughout the village and no doubt helpful to visitors.

General Impression:

Shannonbridge continues to progress and we look forward to seeing the village maximise its potential in the years ahead.