

# Tidy Towns Competition 2003

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Shinrone**

Ref: **65**

County: **Offaly**

Mark: **227**

Category: **B**

Date: **09/07/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	38
The Built Environment	40	30	29
Landscaping	40	32	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	22
Litter Control	40	31	32
Tidiness	20	14	15
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>224</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for the well completed entry form which gave the adjudicator a comprehensive picture of your activities. The excellent sketch map and Shinrone Plan 2003 which accompanied the entry form were also very helpful. Shinrone is expanding with many new houses being built at present. Obviously these new residents will bring change and there is an opportunity for the Committee to bring these households on board to assist with your endeavours in the future. Your plan for the Riverside Amenity is ambitious but with the financial support received through the Village Renewal Scheme and also with local co-operation, this is achievable and worthwhile. However, the considerable work already undertaken on projects in the village to date must not be forgotten and these should also continue to be maintained to the highest standards in the years ahead.

### The Built Environment:

Most business premises in Shinrone were well presented including Tierneys and the Castle Bar to name but two. Other buildings which were also well maintained were the three churches, the garda barracks, with the lovely bed of dahlias outside, and the school, also nicely planted. The large sports complex is well painted but the area around this could be made more attractive with some additional planting. The Shannon Development sign for Shinrone Enterprise Centre needed replacing. The work of the Committee under this section in the area of street furniture, footpaths and stone walls is commendable.

The main problem regarding the built environment in Shinrone is the area where Halla an Paraiste once stood which is now a vacant site with an unsightly wall adjoining the nearby shop. It will be difficult to progress further in the competition whilst this eyesore exists.

### **Landscaping:**

Shinrone Tidy Towns Committee have developed many planted areas throughout the village and these were mostly looking very well on the day of adjudication, with grass being cut during the visit. The roses were especially admired on the Roscrea approach. However, a little more attention to detail would ensure that these areas reach their full potential. The well presented seating and picnic tables were admired as were the lamp standards with their hanging baskets overflowing with colour. The maturing trees on the approach roads add character to these roads. The newly planted trees by the river were also noted. On the Brosna approach, the copper beech trees and the immaculate green area are admirable.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The berried rowan trees on the Ballygarry approach should prove beneficial to wildlife. The other planting around the village also contributes under this category. The two initiatives planned for the future - the wildlife island and interpretative panels about same - are exciting and we look forward to their completion.

### **Litter Control:**

There was a small amount of litter to be seen in Shinrone but not very much. Obviously the daily clean ups by FÁS workers and the Committee are working. Your work on making the public more aware of this problem is also commendable.

### **Tidiness:**

Whilst presenting quite a tidy appearance, there were a few areas of concern in Shinrone that need to be addressed. Again, the biggest problem in this regard is the unsightly gable wall of the shop next to where Halla an Paraiste stood. Of lesser magnitude, but also needing attention, is the fact that there were some weedy kerbs and bases of walls in and around the village. Also, two approaches presented a rather untidy appearance; the Cloughjordan approach where ivy needs to be removed from stone walls and the Roscrea approach. In the case of the latter, building work is taking place at present on this road and no doubt this area will be tidied up satisfactorily following the completion of this work.

### **Residential Areas:**

In the main, private houses in the village and on the approach roads were well presented. A house next to the Castle Bar was being painted during adjudication. As usual, Annbrook View, with its nicely planted entrance was admired. We noted that the infill housing opposite the nursing home had been completed and that work on the large new residential estate - Shinrone Oaks - on the Roscrea road is continuing. Here the immaculate green area which has been developed along with the housing was admired. Perhaps some more tree planting - oaks? - would further enhance this area. Some set back areas on the Birr approach were somewhat unsightly.

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

The centre and approach roads in Shinrone were mainly well presented. However, the main street would have benefitted from a good brushing. Signage throughout was mostly well maintained but a few signs were in need of attention.

**General Impression:**

Shinrone is a village of character and charm and we look forward to seeing further progress in the years ahead.