

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cortober**

Ref: **569**

County: **Roscommon**

Mark: **150**

Category: **B**

Date: **10/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	21	21
The Built Environment	40	23	23
Landscaping	40	17	17
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	20	20
Tidiness	20	8	8
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	18	18
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	150	150

Overall Developmental Approach:

Cortober is welcome to 2003 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your completed application. No plan or work programme has been included, it is difficult to progress in the competition without a plan of action. The village appears to be a part of the greater Carrick on Shannon area. Only one sign for Cortober was noted which was close to the railway bridge. It is strongly suggested that other signs are placed to delineate the area and give it a stronger identity for the travelling public. The village is primarily a residential area with some commercial properties.

The Built Environment:

The railway station building are constructed of handsome cut stone. Some clearing of weeds at its base and its general environs would enhance its appearance further. Work in progress was noted at the Mitsubishi Motors premises. A commercial premises located on the left near the railway bridge across from the new housing development features badly weather stained boundary walls which should be cleaned and/ or painted (this is a building with an Eircom alarm on its façade).

Landscaping:

It is suggested that the possibility of landscaping the perimeters of the ESB station should be explored in order to soften its negative visual impact. Landscaping is also suggested for the roadside

perimeter of the Jones's Oil premises. Many stretches of grass margin and verges need to be levelled and re seeded.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The area is experiencing a lot of development, which can be a threat to wildlife. It is suggested that a survey be undertaken to identify existing habitats and to plan any protective measures that may be necessary in the face of future development. The village appears to lack a communal open space and it is suggested that the possibility of developing a small park in the large field located beyond the Jones's Oil premises be explored.

Litter Control:

Litter control was good throughout the village during adjudication, however some litter was noted on the riverbanks. It is not quite clear from your application whether the river banks are to be included within your area of responsibility and it is suggested that next years application clearly defines the area for adjudication.

Tidiness:

With so much development work in progress this gives rise to a certain ambiance of untidiness. The environs of Irish Shell Limited present a particular problem under the heading.

Residential Areas:

As noted earlier the village is comprised manly of residential properties with some commercial premises. Many residential developments have not been completed and are still awaiting development of green spaces and other finishing touches. The Inver Gael Marina Village is a handsome development which makes a substantial visual impact on this area of Cortober. The row of bungalows out the road, which runs perpendicular to the Sligo road are attractive, however a few boundary walls here are in need of up grading.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Car parking at the railway station is orderly. The new footpath at O'Dowds Fireplaces looks very well. The posts of many road sighs are in need of refurbishment.

General Impression:

The general impression of Cortober is that it is work in progress. It is also difficult to get a strong sense of its identity as being separate and distinct from Carrick on Shannon. This problem could be addressed by additional name plates defining the limits of the village.