

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Shannon**

Ref: **13**

County: **Clare**

Mark: **233**

Category: **E**

Date: **04/07/2004**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2004 | Mark Awarded 2003 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 44 | 44 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 31 | 31 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 34 | 33 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 21 | 21 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 26 | 27 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 16 | 15 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 25 | 24 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 29 | 25 |
| General Impression | 10 | 7 | 7 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 233 | 227 |

Overall Developmental Approach:

The six members of Shannon Tidy Towns Committee are to be commended for continuing to persevere in their work despite considerable changes which are taking place in the town at present. These include the finalisation of the new road system, the Sky Court development in the town centre and pipe laying work in connection with the extension of Natural Gas to Shannon. We also note that the management of Shannon Town is in the process of being transferred from Shannon Development to Clare County Council. These are all major projects and it would seem that this disruption will continue for some time. However, as well as the present down side physical effects of these changes they are also a challenge and opportunity for the Committee who, no doubt, will be given the chance to have their voice heard in regard to the new five year plan being drawn up by Clare County Council.

The Built Environment:

Presumably because Shannon is still a relatively young town there are a number of Schools in the area. These include the newly built St Caimins Community School which was very well presented as was St.Tolans and Bun School Chonaire. Scoil Naomh Padraig was reasonably well presented but the paint work here needed some attention. Many families were enjoying the playground near the Shannon Leisure Centre on the day of adjudication. The Town Hall was also looking well and nicely landscaped. The town centre, where the Sky Court development is taking place is at present one large building site and impossible to comment upon until this work is completed.

Landscaping:

Shannon is a town with a considerable number of green areas, many of which have been nicely landscaped with flowers, shrubs and tree planting. Trees are in different stages of growth throughout from newly planted to quite mature examples on some avenues - these will all leave a wonderful legacy for future generations. The gardens of private houses in Shannon are mostly very well maintained (quite a number of people were out working on same) and add to the colour and pleasant aspect of the avenues. On the day all the green areas had been nicely trimmed and the planting throughout well maintained giving the suburbs of the town an overall garden atmosphere. Well done to all concerned.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

We note that a Habitat Survey has been completed by Clare County Council and that the Tidy Town Committee plans to promote and highlight the findings of this through talks in Schools by local environmental experts and Council officials. We also note that you plan to extend the Walking trail and provide information signs and boards on the River Walk.

Litter Control:

Unfortunately, there was a smattering of casual littering at many of the green areas mentioned above despite the provision of litter bins throughout. Under the heading "Tidiness" you mention that you are aiming to increase the number of residents accepting responsibility for their own area. This could also apply to litter management. Your poster on the reduce/reuse/recycle theme specifically mentioning litter is imaginative and hopefully will prove successful.

Tidiness:

The areas outside the town centre were mostly tidy except for the littering mentioned above. Roadside kerbs were weed free throughout. We note that you have two active recycling centres in Shannon at present and that it is proposed to increase this number in the future.

Residential Areas:

As in many other towns and villages in Ireland, a considerable stock of new residential housing is coming on stream in Shannon. No doubt you will encourage these new residents to join with you in your efforts and ensure that all building sites are left neat and tidy at the conclusion of the work. Existing houses, with a few exceptions, are well maintained in most areas.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The new road structure is to be welcomed and we noted that you worked closely with the Council on the planting for the roundabouts, junctions and road verges, all of which were looking well. The planting at a "Welcome to Shannon" sign was also noted. Roads in general throughout the town were well surfaced with the provision of ramps providing safety for residents. Banks were well trimmed and foliage cut back on the side roads. Signage was very mixed throughout, some very good and some very poor, including the name signage for various housing estates as previously mentioned.

General Impression:

Shannon is a town at a crossroads in its development at present. It will be essential over the next five years to ensure that this development is completed satisfactorily including the environmental and social aspects of same.

