

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Shannonvale**

Ref: **210**

County: **Cork West**

Mark: **213**

Category: **A**

Date: **25/01/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	38
The Built Environment	40	26	25
Landscaping	40	33	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	34	34
Tidiness	20	7	7
Residential Areas	30	25	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	213	211

Overall Developmental Approach:

Shannonvale Community Association have put together a good outline five year plan. However, there was no indication given as to when this five year plan commences - this is important in order that the adjudicators can assess your progress. Good luck with your work in seeking grants from Cork County Council. Many thanks for your map which was very clear and concise, although a few of the hand written notes were quite hard to read! You mention that you involve the local community by means of raffles, barbeques and clean ups. Do endeavour to continue to do this good work.

The Built Environment:

The few buildings of the village generally looked well cared for on the day. Do ensure that plastic projecting signs are replaced with ones of a more traditional timber variety. Phair's is a charming ivy - clad roadside pub.

Landscaping:

The open area opposite Phair's pub is unfortunately extremely overgrown, in its very prominent location at the crossroads in the centre of the village. The park is another quite unfortunate area. It is to be hoped that Cork County Council can solve the sewerage problem in this location! Weeds were evident to the beds in which trees were planted on the main streets. The grass verges behind

the timber rails on the road to Big Cross were quite overgrown and the adjudicator wondered how access was gained for cutting these. The planted beds on this road were fine. Incidental landscaped spaces such as that with Easter lilies opposite the attractive cottages, are a wonderful contribution to the overall presentation of the village.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Shannonvale is indeed fortunate with its wealth of mature trees and the presence of the Arigadeen River. Unfortunately, the adjudicator saw little evidence of your wildlife boards on the day, so if they were there perhaps you should consider a more prominent location for them? Work regarding feeding baskets and bird tables is to be commended, although these were not very visible, either.

Litter Control:

Even a small amount of litter is all the more evident in a village of Shannonvale's size. Litter was apparent on the Clonakilty Road and to the open space opposite Phair's Pub. More was seen scattered further along the roadside leading to the bridge.

Tidiness:

A broken wall on the Clonakilty Road created a bad impression. There is a great deal of construction taking place in the village, so this is taken into account, as it will obviously have a bearing to the overall presentation. Marks were not lost in this regard. Messy yard areas should be screened from public view, as mentioned in last year's report. Do ensure that out - of - date warning signage is removed - a road flooded sign was evident on the Clonakilty Road which was obviously not the case on a sunny June adjudication day! Weed control was a problem at the bridge. Another broken wall was evident on the Big Cross side of the village which should be repaired before next year's competition.

Residential Areas:

The standard of houses in the village and along approach roads was generally good on the day. A pretty pink cottage with attractive garden on the Clonakilty Road was admired. The new houses with their stone boundary walls - both private and communal looked extremely well. These fit in well with the existing character of the village. Colourful street houses were admired such as the cottages near to the village pump.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Clonakilty Road was quite overgrown and the tubs situated either side of the village nameplate sign looked somewhat forlorn. Grass verges in this area needed cutting back. On the road opposite Phair's Pub the verges were also quite overgrown and no village nameplate was evident. The speed limit sign in this location was slightly grubby and should be washed down. The road to Big Cross was in better condition and the wild honeysuckle and foxgloves in the hedgerows were admired. Its nameplate had become quite grubby also.

General Impression:

Shannonvale is an attractive village and individual occupants have evidently made great efforts with their areas. However, there is an overall air of slight neglect about the village, which was sad to see. Try to encourage more participation by the local residents in this regard, in order to help you with your work.

