

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Carrick-On-Shannon**

Ref: **549**

County: **Leitrim**

Mark: **246**

Category: **C**

Date: **02/04/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	47	47
The Built Environment	40	34	33
Landscaping	40	36	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	22
Litter Control	40	24	23
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	27	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	32
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	246	242

Overall Developmental Approach:

Carrick on Shannon continues to expand with many commercial and residential developments currently underway and others planned. A good working relationship with stakeholders such as the local authority, residents, community groups and the chamber of commerce is essential if you are to progress further in this competition. A determined and sustainable effort by all in a proactive Tidy Towns campaign will be required if Carrick on Shannon is to overcome the challenges regeneration and a significant increase in population brings.

Many thanks for the entry form, map and excellent scrapbook, these were very helpful to the adjudicator.

The Built Environment:

While the built environment of Carrick on Shannon is ever changing, the many old buildings and some new safeguard the architectural integrity of this marina town. These include the "Lemongrass" Restaurant on Quay Road with it's original stonework, the Market Yard Centre which is beautifully restored and the Old Courthouse soon to become the Arts Centre. The colourful traditional shopfronts along the Dublin Road also deserve a mention. Ongoing development at the County Hotel is awaited with interest. Halty Manor is presented to a very high standard as is St. Mary's Church and the MBNA building on the Dublin Road. Other buildings contributing positively to the built environment include Gerard Anthony's, Grafter's and McKiernan's Pharmacy. However, some buildings are in need of attention especially around boundary walls and back areas. Wheelie bins on

the Main Street and beer barrels adjacent to public houses detracts from the overall presentation of Carrick on Shannon. The Marina, from a distance, is impressive and attractive, however, weed growth and litter were noted on adjudication day.

Landscaping:

Landscaping is generally well presented and maintained with flower beds noted along the by pass and throughout the town. Improvements have been made to the presentation of the Dublin Road roundabout, however, the appearance of some litter and weeds in the vicinity take away from this good work. The tree lined approach on the Dublin Road is very impressive as is the exceptional high standard of landscaping and colour at the MBNA park. St. Patrick's Community Hospital is nicely landscaped with good use of floral displays, trees, shrubs and seating. The Market Yard is a gem, with tree planting, water feature, hanging baskets and attractive lampstands.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The illusive swans were again missing. Refer to the Tidy Towns Handbook, consult any local wildlife experts and engage the help of schools to identify wildlife habitats with special emphasis on conservation and protection measures. As a Tidy Towns Committee you have an important role to play in protecting and increasing the appreciation of wildlife in your community.

Litter Control:

Litter control is still an issue for Carrick on Shannon. Incidental litter was visible on the roundabout, approach roads, along streets and in certain areas down by the Marina. Litter is a recurring problem for any fast growing town and should be a priority for next year. Consider enrolling local schools in anti-litter drives or involving An Taisce Green Schools project.

Tidiness:

There are some very tidy and well presented areas in Carrick on Shannon, however, whellie bins and beer barrels are an issue as are weeds at the base of boundary walls and in landscaped areas such as the County Council building down by the Marina. The forecourts of Emerald Star and Carrick Craft appeared well cared for and tidy. The Cosy Corner has an attractive appearance with nice seating and a new bus shelter nearby, unfortunately the surrounding area is in need of attention. Graffiti on the Town Clock and the poor presentation of Costello Memorial Chapel is very disappointing. Many private and commercial premises in the Main Street and along approach roads are attractively presented, some with floral displays and others freshly painted. The Landmark Hotel with it's nearby shop units is beautifully presented and obviously well cared for. Inconsistancies are mitigating against you under this heading. Look for the co-operation of the local authority and residents to make improvements for 2005.

Residential Areas:

There are many beautifully landscaped and well maintained houses on the approach roads and in residential areas around Carrick on Shannon. Inver Gael with it's nicely landscaped courtyard and Shannon Court with young trees, open green areas and minature wooden bridge were admired by the adjudicator. Breffni Heights and St. Patrick's Park also have some exceptional private gardens. It is important that all new developments are completed to a high standard of all round presentation by developers and then maintained by residents. Some premises are in need of painting while boundary walls and verges should be give a priority by residents.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Signage on some approaches need cleaning. The Sligo approach with views of the Marina is attractive. A number of open green areas have yet to be landscaped on this approach,although work

on shrub beds in front of the Maxol Station was underway on adjudication day. The stone wall at Supermacs is appealing. The Esso Petrol Station further along is unsightly. The Dublin approach is well presented with tree planting and some landscaping at the roundabout. The MBNA building with its landscaping and stone walls is very attractive. Other minor approach roads are in need of attention. It was good to see that the unsightly poles have been removed from the bridge. Well done. The many new buildings especially on the Sligo approach, when completed, will add greatly to the visual impact of Carrick on Shannon. Consult with the local authority with regard to future maintenance programmes for roads, streets and back areas.

General Impression:

You continue to make steady progress. An annual work programme in relation to the key issues raised in this and previous reports is now essential to prioritise and set realistic goals for the coming year. Continue to seek the support of local authority and residents who must be full participants in any successful Tidy Towns campaign.

Second Round Adjudication:

Carrick-on-Shannon has seen a vast amount of expansion over the last number of years. This, as commented upon by the First Adjudicator, is something that you will have to monitor with care. The town has, despite this rapid development, managed to maintain its own distinct character, certainly in the central areas of the town. The Leitrim Design House complex is a new development which fits in nicely with the existing fabric of the town and is well used. Building materials should be removed once construction work has taken place-some were evident beside the Tourist Information Office at the waterside. Advertising hoardings and fly-posting on approach roads should be actively discouraged as these give a rather cluttered appearance. Alleyways and laneways are prime areas for development potential in the town centre. The Adjudicator was disappointed to note that Costello Memorial Chapel was closed as it is an interesting place to visit. A few papers were evident on the main streets of the town on the day. Discourage curved canopies and plastic signage and encourage their replacement with one of a more traditional variety such as fabric awnings and timber signs. Drainpipes are elements which should not be neglected when considering presentation as rusty ones can create a bad impression! Railings to Presentation Brothers building appeared quite rusty and should be attended to before next year's competition. Generally the town was a pleasure to visit, as ever!