

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Shannonbridge**

Ref: **675**

County: **Offaly**

Mark: **222**

Category: **B**

Date: **04/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	30
The Built Environment	40	34	34
Landscaping	40	34	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	30	30
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	27
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	222	222

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for submission and sketch map. We still notice no progress on the formulation of a three year plan. This need not be as intimidating as some people think: what we are anxious for is your thoughts for a better Shannonbridge, but it is important that these be listed and approved by the community. Ideally, you should phase your efforts and keep in close liaison with other agencies.

The Built Environment:

The history and heritage aspect of the village is strong and the magnificent 19th century buildings on the Galway end of the bridge are unique. The public buildings in the village all looked well this year and some have high quality landscaping. The village lends itself to strong colour beside the Shannon and you have performed well here. The thatched house on the approach road is enticing and projects a good image for the village. The unsightly barn opposite is unfortunate: any chance of the owner being persuaded to improve? Flynn's Bar and Bridge Bar looked well. We note the derelict house beside Nugents is due for demolition and replacement of four accommodation units. Planners should ensure that the traditional streetscape here is protected and avoid the use of materials not appropriate to the character of the village. The school is drab and needs painting, even the flag poles need attention.

Landscaping:

Landscaping is rich and plentiful throughout and much of previous years planting continues to enhance. You still have potential to raise your marks here. Farm gates should be painted, if the owners won't do it you should do it yourselves. Brightly coloured farm gates can be very attractive, especially those with traditional features. Picnic areas mentioned last year are well presented again this year. The landscaping at the new marina area is very good and this in a splendid development offering valuable boating services to the users of the Shannon. The toilets and shower units at the other side are well maintained and were spotless on adjudication day.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You have great scope here for the promotion of wildlife and we suggest you contact a specialist from the Irish Wildlife Society for advice on the implementation of a suitable project.

Litter Control:

Some litter was in evidence at the Marina. However, in general litter control is very good and Main Street was free of litter. Your close association with the school authorities is praiseworthy. Toilets here were well maintained and were cleaned on adjudication day.

Tidiness:

Your problems here relate to dereliction, unoccupied buildings, and uncared for open spaces. The site opposite Nugents is poor and needs attention. We note with interest the major development of a new Power Station which is now dominant. We look forward to its completion of this development which will also afford you opportunity for added impetus in your own endeavours, from new residents.

Residential Areas:

The standard and presentation of residential areas are very good. The individual effort here is commendable and most householders are cooperating with you in your efforts.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The road structure is good in all areas and the grass cutting on the Galway side is good. Back areas need attention as they now form part of core activity. Because of the river traffic movement many back areas are quite visible and owners should be conscious of this, especially in the prominent areas.

General Impression:

An other good performance for Shannonbridge. You continue to progress and we compliment you on your consistency over the years. The Tourism Office looked neglected and closed: best to remove the sign. We urge you once again to formulate a plan and phase your efforts over three years. We suggest you contact the Offaly Co. Council and other relevant agencies and impress upon them the importance of assisting you.