

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Shinrone**

Ref: **711**

County: **Offaly**

Mark: **234**

Category: **B**

Date: **20/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	40
The Built Environment	40	32	30
Landscaping	40	33	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	22
Litter Control	40	31	31
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	27
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	234	227

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for a comprehensive submission, outlining work on hand and giving details of work planned for the future. We note however, that the 2003 plan has been included again for submission this year. It is many years since this adjudicator inspected this centre and the changes that have taken place since then are quite impressive and extensive. You are now increasing your population with some large and small additional housing estates and this has beneficial implications for the environment. You have a great deal of area under adjudication and many lengthy approach roads to cater for. This calls for a good commitment from the community and your challenge now is to recruit and motivate new members. You have an opportunity to boost your membership from the new residents in particular.

The Built Environment:

The history and heritage of Shinrone is very much in evidence and the many buildings of 19th century and earlier are obvious. You have some very attractive houses in and around the village, some now yielding to modern day developments and change. Both churches were well presented and the school is attractive with an interesting quern stone. The Garda Station is fair and has an attractive flower bed fronting it. We notice some new shopping development across from the new and well landscaped Clover Lodge Nursing home entrance. We hope these will get appropriate signage. Liffey Mills is attractive, together with Tierneys and Geraldines Beauty Salon. The Community Centre dominates the village at this end of the main street. Surprisingly it still does not

have an identity sign. The tennis court beside the centre is a let-down and now need attention, ideally from tennis enthusiasts. The playing field at the rear of the centre is very well kept, with lighting and well cut grass.

Landscaping:

This is one of your strong points and you are indebted to all who planted a great array of trees down through the years. You are one of the few areas with generous and attractive tree planting on the main street and these will further enhance with the passing of time. Almost all approach roads have a good display of colour and we commend all concerned with landscaping and high maintenance: well done. Individual effort here is good too and many gardens have attractive flower displays. The amount of grass cutting on the approach is demanding and we acknowledge your efforts here. The river bank development is a gem and very visitor friendly with two attractive seats. However, we witnessed some small amount of litter here, though the litter bin was not overflowing. You mention you may open up a second arch in this area: we see this as unnecessary as it is quite attractive in its present state.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You are well positioned to raise your marks here and you should continue your efforts outlined in your submission. Already your tree and shrubbery planting is contributing to the promotion of wildlife. You could go the extra mile and erect some illustrated display boards at the river area.

Litter Control:

In general litter control is good and the recycling centre is well positioned with no abuse in evidence. A little litter on main street and the small amount at the river area as mentioned would not merit a loss in marks.

Tidiness:

Because of the numerous amounts of poorly presented open spaces, dereliction and unoccupied premises and some broken walls and rubble on development sites, the village has problems in this section of the competition. The standard lights on the main street are excellent.

Residential Areas:

You are witnessing an inordinate amount of house building and the Shinrone Oaks estate is comparable to what one expects in a growing provincial town. This estate has great potential to contribute significantly to your endeavours. Other house developments are developing well and you should encourage planners to lay emphasis on infill development and develop some derelict sites with appropriate buildings. The terraced houses at the Roscrea turn are unique and appealing. Owners should be encouraged to carry out replacement repairs appropriate to their tradition and design. Like many housing estates throughout the country all too many do not have any identity. We suggest appropriate bilingual signs for all estates. We also notice the bad habit of parking cars on grassed areas and on footpaths, this should be discontinued. The new housing estate opposite Hillbrook View will need careful landscaping: we hope the will happen. Well done on the stone wall entrance.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Road structure is very good all approach roads are of a good quality. As mentioned the long stretches of grass areas is demanding on energy and time and we compliment you on this performance. The illustrated history display board, flanked by two attractive chestnut trees is one of the best seen by this adjudicator. Many signs in and around the village need cleaning and the sign at the church junction has been stained.

General Impression:

It was a delight to visit Shinrone again and see first hand the good work in progress. You have scored well this year and the FÁS scheme is serving you well. However, we would point out that it is the voluntary ethos that has served the Tidy Towns movement well down through the years: the ideal is a combination of both. We wish you well for 2005.