

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Shannonvale**

Ref: **412**

County: **Cork West**

Mark: **215**

Category: **A**

Date: **11/07/2005**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2005 | Mark Awarded 2004 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 38 | 38 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 26 | 26 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 33 | 33 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 16 | 15 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 35 | 34 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 7 | 7 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 25 | 25 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 28 | 28 |
| General Impression | 10 | 7 | 7 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 215 | 213 |

Overall Developmental Approach:

Your submission proved helpful on adjudication day. You have an exceptionally long linear village with much character and much evidence of former busy milling days. You also have great challenges in blending the new with the old and your area is very widespread relevant to the population. Like most villages near a busy town you are under pressure for house building and these will now change the character of the village in terms of population and building density. You need to firm-up your phased development plan and get community backing and commitment for your endeavours.

The Built Environment:

We are including the West Cork Technology Park in the adjudication as it forms an impressive approach to the village from the Bandon approach. The park is really excellent and richly landscaped with sustained shrubbery and some water feature also. This park is a example for others to pursue and is a model in design for the region, so well done to those responsible. You need improved signage from this cross as we missed the finger sign on the shared post. The mill is a most imposing, albeit dangerous building. It is quite a landmark and worthy of improved presentation even though it is not in use. Could some information on its history be erected by way of a display board as it would be of interest to visitors and locals alike. Noel Phair public house now needs a painting as it is traditional in style and would stand out with fresh painting.

Landscaping:

Few villages can boast of such a magnificent river as An tAirgidín and we urge you to make it a focal part of the village. We notice the development work in hand at the riverside and hope it will be complete for next year. It is ideal for a river walk and the amenity space has potential for rich landscaping and amenity facilities. We look forward to future developments.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You have plenty of opportunity to raise your marks here and the whole river catchment area is a haven for wildlife habitat. The view from the bridge offers an abundance of wildlife was a blaze of colour from wildflowers on a fine July adjudication day. You should instigate a survey of the local wildlife species and transfer them to an illustrated display board, erected near the amenity park. Such a development would stimulate further interest in wildlife.

Litter Control:

Unlike last year litter control seemed good and there were no apparent problems in evidence. The square was well presented and free from litter.

Tidiness:

You have serious problems here and we were disappointed with the inordinate amount of discarded farm machinery in open spaces on the approach roads. We would urge landowners to keep their yards neat and tidy and some had abandoned cars which were most unsightly. You also have a good deal of dereliction and many broken walls needing attention. The approach roads need improvement as they create a lasting impression for first time visitors.

Residential Areas:

We noticed some very good individual effort from many of the residents: some have gone to great trouble to present bright gardens front and back and this is commendable. The new housing estates will need appropriate landscaping and should strive to blend in well with the rest of the villages. Developers should respect the traditional and rural ethos of the village and use materials appropriate: we welcome the use of stone at An Garrán. We also hope this scheme will be well landscaped. Some of the older houses have attractive traditional features worthy of good maintenance and presentation.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Road structure needs improvement and most approach roads were overgrown. You should consider erecting two Fáilte signs on the two principal approach roads. The village has some very interesting back and side areas and these are now a core part of the adjudication scheme. The 1798 monument is excellent and the shrubbery was receiving attention on adjudication day. The standing stones are impressive but it is frustrating for visitors not to have access to them or to be presented with any information about them. Could you tackle this as a project for next year. Contact the National Monuments Department for advice.

General Impression:

You have an interesting village with potential for high marks in the competition. You need greater commitment from the community, extending to your new residents and agree a vision for Shannonvale in five years time. Your challenge now is to blend the new with the old and ensure the traditional features of the village are not smothered by modern day developments. Good luck for the future.

Second Round Adjudication: