

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Carrick-On-Shannon**

Ref: **709**

County: **Leitrim**

Mark: **250**

Category: **C**

Date: **11/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	47	47
The Built Environment	40	35	34
Landscaping	40	37	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	23
Litter Control	40	26	24
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	27	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	32
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	250	246

Overall Developmental Approach:

The adjudicator would like to thank you for the most comprehensive documentation provided with your Entry Form. The booklet on your 2005 activities was extremely useful. Above all the hand drawn map was superb and all locations highlighted on this were visited on adjudication.

As you adjudicator walked around the town the thought 'what a lovely place to live' came to mind. Your committee, the community and supporting agencies have done really excellent work over the past number of years. Do keep you on-going Action Plan up to date.

The Built Environment:

There are a number of really excellent developments in the town. Some of those that caught the eye was the MBNA property, the Landmark Hotel, Victoria Hall, the Market Yard and Cox's Pharmacy to highlight just a few. The lettering at the pharmacy is a text book example of how such lettering should be done. There is a great sense of colour and brightness in Carrick-On-Shannon and this contributes to the overall atmosphere of the town. Some buildings do however need attention such as the Mitsubishi premises on the Roscommon approach road. The Coffee Shop / Bakery building at the bottom of bridge with the extension along the waterfront is a key building at an important road / street junction that fits well with the other buildings in the immediate surroundings.

As a development the Market Yard stands out and the central boat sculpture is so appropriate to the

town. The nearby Post Office is a drab unexciting building. The gable wall here should be painted as should the vertical columns of the front elevation. What about using a brave bright colour choice here so that this public building will make a visual statement?

A tidy building perhaps seen by few visitors is the Costelloe Memorial Chapel of 1877. It now looks rather abandoned and in need of maintenance. Can a new use be found if it is no longer a chapel and can some urgent maintenance be done on the building?

Landscaping:

There is so much excellent landscaping in Carrick-On-Shannon that it is difficult to highlight any one area. However the Dublin Road by MBNA is really outstanding as is the work on the bye-pass. Many of the roundabouts have excellent landscaping thus highlighting in a positive way these necessary road infrastructural features. At the Catholic Church the mature trees and quite tall shrubs set the building off to good effect. Many individual properties are also excellently landscaped and they contribute to the overall feeling of environmental high standards in the town.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The documentation supplied does not make it clear how much work you have done on wildlife. In many towns and villages this is an aspect of the Tidy Towns Competition where there can be significant potential for development. All towns and villages have the presence of wildlife to some degree. It is important that your Tidy Towns Committee would examine the wildlife potential, and see what you can achieve in terms of making your area even more wildlife friendly.

If you have not already done so, the starting point is to have a habitat Survey carried out of the wildlife in your area. Suggested habitats to be considered include the following –

- Urban habitats – gardens, waste ground, walls, graveyards, hedges
- Wetland habitats – rivers, ponds, lakes, canals, reed marsh, bogs
- Woodland habitats – forests, hedgerows, plantations, parks
- Grassland habitats – roadside verges, parks, wet meadows, dry grasslands

The Survey should produce a species list for each of the habitats relevant to your area

This need not be an expensive Survey. Perhaps there is a knowledgeable person in one of your Schools who might undertake this task for you. Basically the Survey would identify the animals, plants, birds, fish that inhabit your area and their associated habitats. It should be remembered that to carry out the Survey properly that it will probably take a year so that all habitats can be assessed at different time of the year.

Using the results of the Wildlife Survey your next step should be do draft a straight forward Plan to preserve the identified habitats in your area, and investigate the possibility of new ones. For example perhaps there is an old Pond in your area that is disused, but with a little work could be an important area for wildfowl.

It is most important to try and involve your local school children in this project, and in many Schools there is probably a teacher who may have an interest in this area who would be willing to get involved.

As part of the actions to be undertaken in your Wildlife Plan you might like to consider the provision of some weather proof and vandal proof display panels, illustrating and explaining the wildlife in your area. This has been done very successfully in many towns and villages in Ireland.

Litter Control:

Litter control was generally quite good both in the town centre and on the approach roads. Occasional litter was noted in Bridge Street and in some housing estates. For a busy town like Carrick-On-Shannon this is a good performance. The litter situation seems to have improved since the 2004 competition.

Tidiness:

A large uncut open space was noted near to St. Patrick's Park estate, and this area if in public ownership could have potential as a local amenity area. The adjudicator is not in favour of the display of retail goods on the pavement as was noted here. Apart from looking rather untidy such displays can cause major difficulties for people in wheelchairs or the visually disabled. This problem seems to be serious in the town. Pavement display was noted in a number of streets and especially in Main Street. Also in Bridge Street there is a low canopy on the right hand side going up the street. For even a normal height person this could be dangerous and should receive attention. Pavement display was noted near here also. At the Tennis Courts extensive long grass and weed growth was noted below the railings parallel to the roadway above.

Residential Areas:

As in many other towns and villages in the area private properties are presented in Carrick-On-Shannon to quite a high standard where the owners are obviously taking pride in their own area. Many housing estates were also attractively presented with good landscaping both public and private. The landscaping at Inver Gael was especially eye-catching as was the presentation of open spaces at Cluain Si. However weed growth and grass growth at kerbs was evident here.,

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads to the town were generally well presented and eye catching. However urgent improvements are required on the Roscommon approach near the bridge. The by-pass is superbly presented and is a good example of how really good landscaping should look when finished. At Summerhill near the Hospital a poorly presented verge was noted with bad weed growth. The roadway at MBNA is superb and is another fine example of best practice. A key feature of Carrick-On-Shannon is the deep commitment to quality landscaping and this is so well reflected in several of the approach roads. Some short narrow lanes off BRidge Street were very poorly presented.

General Impression:

Your good progress continues. At your level in the Tidy Towns competition additional marks become more difficult to attain as even greater attention to small details becomes all important.

Second Round Adjudication:

It was a pleasure to visit Carrick-On-Shannon on the occasion of second adjudication and to soak up the ambience of cheerfulness that pervaded the town on a bright warm sunny August day. Aside from major road works and site developments which generate a certain type of untidiness the town was beautifully presented in respect of its built and natural environments and both were complemented by colourful flower displays and mature landscaping. Like many large towns Carrick-On-Shannon has its black spots which require further attention and maintenance; the environs of Saint Patricks Park was heavily littered and the telephone kiosk had been vandalized on the day of second adjudication. Litter was trapped in the corners of the Recycling Centre and the adjacent lane and site to the rear was unsightly, enclosure with good quality materials would address the problem. Some items of street furniture including finger-posts are in need of painting; improvements made since first adjudication have been noted.

