

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Shannonbridge** Ref: **850**
County: **Offaly** Mark: **240**
Category: **B** Date(s): **07/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	31
The Built Environment	50	36
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	21
Litter Control	50	32
Waste Minimisation	20	4
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	32
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	240

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the completed entry form and the map of the village and its surrounds.
It was noted that an update of last years plan was not included, which is more the pity as it would have allowed the adjudicator to benchmark work done since then.
There is a good practical working relationship between the committee and other relevant parties interested in the welfare of Shannon Bridge, so long may it continue.
Do engage with the school to advise pupils of your particular role in the community and to get them interested.

The Built Environment:

There has been an excellent effort on the part of homeowners and business premises alike to present the good side of the Village of Shannon Bridge.
It was noticeable on what was a good summer's day that most premises had been or were in the process of being painted.
A few recently refurbished houses in the village are very much in keeping with the street scape although one was slightly bemused at the style of PVC window installed in one house -unusual to say the least. The renovated thatched house on the outskirts on the Cloghan road is an eye catcher.
The road surfaces have been improved over the last few years and this adds to the attraction of the large wide main street.
The addition of the extended tar macadam foot path to the Power Station has practical benefits as well as looking like a job well done
The Church and School were in acceptable condition painted in bright colours with side areas and boundary walls well maintained.
It is noted from your application that you intend to approach owners of derelict or unoccupied premises to

encourage them to address the problems that are not contributing to the betterment of Shannonbridge. The Bog Oak is on offer as a potential development property be vigilant and make sure anything that goes up is in keeping with existing fabric of the village. The Harbour has been tastefully developed over time and was pretty busy on the day. And the old fort has become a commercial activity and an economic contributor to the village.

Landscaping:

The proposed step to put in place a tree planting programme for the village is a very good idea. Trees are the most important plants in any urban or village setting. The planting arrangements in place at the moment are very appropriate and one arrangement as one exits to Cloghan was much admired for its content and attractiveness. It is a pity that it faces on to a stark boundary wall that could be upgraded. A reminder to attend to the shrub bed on the same side as the aforementioned wall, it needs to be freshened up and thinned out as it is a little raggy at the moment. The hanging baskets and trailing containers over Morans and Killeens were admired for colour but too much clutter does not help both frontages. The B&B down the street had nice simple window boxes and there was very attractive garden adjoining the house next to the thatched establishment.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The idea of developing walkways is a good one, but in the interim an effort should be made prior to next year's competition to put together a proposal for a mini wildlife project. This would be a good way to involve local school children who then should be given guidance to make the project their own. The area has many local wildlife habitats that could be used as a base for any such project and the small wild life garden maybe the ideal location to start with.

Litter Control:

The litter control was good but one has to keep on top of it as some was evident inside that previously mentioned boundary wall at the Cloghan end of the village. Again children could be asked to become involved in clean ups on a regular basis.

Waste Minimisation:

Consider a project under this category, prior to next year's competition, that will complement what you are doing in the promotion of the recycling facilities at the marina jetty. The publication that was included with the original application form will help you identify ideas that are keeping with concept of better waste management.

Tidiness:

The signage opposite the thatched cottage is very obtrusive and indeed not that helpful in identifying places easily. 21 signs ranging from directional to a billboard for Louise Killeen Concert were counted on the day - far too much and something that should be brought to the notice of Offaly County Council. Was planning permission needed for all of these? The concrete fence opposite the Church needs to be repaired and repainted. Overall the local people are doing their utmost to put the best side of Shannonbridge to the forefront.

Residential Areas:

The excellent standard of village premises was commented upon in an earlier section of this report. This was matched in equal measure by St Kieran's Park which has a very well maintained green area supplemented by nice shrub beds that were well tended to. The name stone needs to be sand blasted and maybe resited to a more visible position.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The road surfaces were good and there are nice views as one enters from different sides.

The Roscommon entrance over the bridge gives you a vista of the Shannon although the bridge itself could do with a little adornment to match the lights.

The link road to the Power station was excellent and the road from Cloghan was very acceptable although it had some weed growth at base of kerbside in places.

The Clonmacnoise Road too was fine and the verges, on what is a narrow road, were cut back.

General Impression:

The village is improving each year so it is important that you keep the commitment going.

Do the utmost to maintain the level of partnership you enjoy with both statutory and local organisations.

This partnership approach will lead to a continuation of the progress you have made to date.

Keep up the effort and the village will make further progress in the years ahead.