

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Shinrone** Ref: **293**
County: **Offaly** Mark: **247**
Category: **B** Date(s): **06/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	42
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	23
Litter Control	50	32
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	247

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you very much for the completed application, sketch map of the village and the excellent tidy towns plan for 2006, which is a credit to the community. It has been quite a number of years since this adjudicator last visited Shinrone and there has been immense change since then.

The interaction that the Committee has with Offaly Co County Council and other agencies especially FAS is paying off handsomely as the village looked very well maintained in an overall context on the day.

It also noteworthy that you have the school children involved in activities that fall within Junior Tidy Towns.

Most importantly is that you have managed to get the whole community working well together.

Like every other village of similar size Shinrone is seeing an upsurge in house building which will have practical social and economic benefits in due time. It is hoped that the village will retain its own unique character and does not suffer the same fate as some satellite villages adjacent to the major cities where housing schemes have virtually overtaken the original village or town.

The Built Environment:

The main public buildings in the village both Churches and the school were all well maintained and had a good standard of presentation.

St Mary's Church of Ireland had very impressive entrance with wrought iron gates and well tended grounds. The Castle Bar, which has associations with Shinrone's greatest hurling export and pity his plight when he undertook a nightmare management job even worse than a supporter's!, looked a very attractive facing on to St Mary's Terrace Green.

The Grotto adjacent to the Catholic Church was being lovingly tended to on the day by a senior citizen of the village.

There were a number of very impressive private residences noted including one that had a compact front

surrounded by railings – it may have been the Methodist Church!

The Shannon Development enterprise Centre is rather jaded looking but one has to make allowances in that it is proving support to the local economy by housing a thriving enterprise. The Food store (No Owners Name) was admired for the simplicity of presentation, white dashed walls, simple sign and it has retained its originality. The Community Centre and GAA Grounds were acceptable without being above ordinary.

The streetscape has been enhanced by the addition of street lamps and some prudent planting of trees that when matured will add body to the core area of the village.

Your plan has mentioned that you are addressing the issue that plagues many villages of similar size the derelict or unoccupied buildings and untidy areas. You are wished well in your consultations on an issue that can be sensitive in any tight knit community.

While on the subject of built environment, could a number of business premises be encouraged to provide signage in tandem with other improvements that are taking place.

The new Londis Shop and Centre will be an addition and while one might often quibble with the design of these establishments one has to accept change and the fact that it will be serving a need for the burgeoning population of the area.

Finally would the owners of that very fine corner house building Spains be also encouraged to show it to its best advantage by even applying a coat of bright colour paint.

Landscaping:

There was nice mix of practical shrub planting and colour to be seen in the village and on the outskirts.

Credit to the many householders who had very well maintained and colourful gardens, and that includes the residents the main housing estates and terraces in Shinrone.

The previously mentioned Grotto is one of the best landscaped of its kind encountered during this adjudication year, so well done to the lady that was tending it on the day.

The early work on the environmental landscape project on the lead in from the Roscrea end was noted and the picnic area on the road to Ballingarry was nicely presented.

I commend you on putting the onus on residents associations in the village to take ownership of own areas and to look after landscaping and other activities.

On a little negative note the landscaping, at the otherwise excellent riverside amenity, was looking a little tired and needs to be revitalised somewhat.

The unusual boxes in front of the Church wall were greatly admired and the grounds of St Mary's were in splendid condition.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The maintaining of green and landscaped areas is a very important and the most practical way to help the conservation of wildlife.

The River amenity area, and I have forgotten the name of the river, is an ideal location for the further mini projects.

It would be worth considering involving the local school children in drawing up ideas for a permanent wildlife legacy – an information board for instance to be sited at a suitable location on the riverside walk. Seek advice from the local County Wildlife Ranger of the appropriateness of such an idea.

Litter Control:

The control of litter was good and your practical actions to keep it that way are paying off.

The local population has responded to your urgings and example.

Once gain the involvement of the National School in an activity that benefits its local community, is praiseworthy and will give the kids a sense of pride of place.

Keep promoting the need for good litter control in the village.

Waste Minimisation:

The work undertaken and the proposed work planned under tidiness and litter control is an important contributor to Waste Minimisation in ones community.

There is a need to raise greater awareness of better waste management practices and the guide included in the application package sent to you pre competition time is worth consulting.

This guide will provide you with ideas and on how to get involved in additional initiatives under the Race Against Waste Programme.

Tidiness:

The centre of the village, except for one particularly obvious derelict area and which has been earmarked for attention in your plan, was quite tidy with side areas clean and kerbsides relatively free for residue. There is another derelict or unoccupied house at the bridge end of the village that has a very untidy side area. The obtrusive and badly maintained sign at Shannon Developments Enterprise Centre alluded to in last years report has been removed. Other than that the overall standard was acceptable.

Residential Areas:

The majority of individual town houses, terrace and estate houses adhered to the principles of good basic maintenance with exceptional efforts on the part of some residents. The terrace known as the Roscrea Road Houses were very well looked after and one or two were being painted on the day judging took place. St Marys Terrace was very good and the green area with relaxing seating was well looked after. Annebrook, which is a more compact development, also looked good on the day. The newer housing schemes such as Rathbaun and Clen Cuimin are of suitable design to enhance the existing housing stock and will be seen at their best in a few years time when fully landscaped etc. The advice to be given is to continue to keep residences and immediate areas up to the present standard and improve where needed.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The planned project to erect small nameplates throughout the village will be of practical use, as it will identify various parts of the village and will be very useful to the passing visitor. Your ongoing encouragement to the local residents on the outskirts to help make the entrances to the village more attractive is noted. The main entrance from Roscrea is well presented, good road surface and trees on left hand side maturing with the name sign very visible. The entrance from Cloughjordan was also good but the sign Sui An Roin Shinrone needs to be cleaned or repainted. The Ballingarry entrance gave a really good impression as one entered at the Castle end of the village.

General Impression:

It has been long time since this adjudicator was last in Shinrone and this visit in an official capacity was an eye opener as so many positive things have happened in the interim. Your submission made me more aware of the rich history of the village and the surrounding towns lands and another more leisurely visit is on the cards. As a Limerick hurling man God help me ! I am very much aware of the legacy Shinrone gave us in much better times. The progress you have made in the competition was commented upon in last years report and the greatest asset you have is your strong sense of community. The housing areas are a credit to the residents and your work as a committee is second to none. Keep up the excellent work and attention to detail. You are wished well in future competitions.