

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Shercock** Ref: **984**
County: **Cavan** Mark: **195**
Category: **B** Date(s): **18/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	25
Landscaping	50	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	25
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	5
TOTAL MARK	400	195

Overall Development Approach:

Shercock was entered as part of the drive by SuperValu to work with communities to approve the environmental standards of their areas through participation in the National TidyTowns Competition. Areas were entered on the basis that they fall within the catchment area of the nearest SuperValu store and this 'baseline assessment' is intended to provide a basis on which progress could be made over the coming years through partnership with residents, businesses and local agencies. As such it should not be interpreted as a critique of the area but rather an opportunity for everybody to work together to make their hometown a better place to work, live and visit. As part of SuperValu's strategic approach to sustainable development in the area, a nominal mark has been given to reflect this. Further marks will be awarded in future years where more tangible TidyTowns structures are developed and local environmental plans prepared and implemented. This could particularly relevant to Shercock it was a successful Tidy Towns entrant in previous years.

The Built Environment:

St Patrick's Parochial Hall (1949) is a fine public building, but could do with a coat of paint. Scoil Náisúnta Naomh Pádraig (1994) is maintained in very good condition and was nicely landscaped. TOP filling station was nicely landscaped and clean and tidy. There were some good window boxes of flowers on the neat Post Office building and the nearby shops were well presented – Duffy, O'Reilly, O'Mahony and Burns. National Irish Bank looked in outstanding condition, as did the red painted premises across the road. Others to catch the eye were Odds & Ends, Fidgeons and Duffy Costcutter.

There were some ancient artefacts in the car park of Annesley Heights B&B, which was festooned with a fine selection of flowers and shrubs. In fact, most of the shops along the main street were in quite good condition. Costcutter shop and Flexi Property were pretty of the Carrickmacross road.

The Church of Ireland church could do with a freshening up of paint. The Catholic Church looked well maintained and had some fine flower arrangements.

The two Otabetex buildings were well maintained.

The Carton Bros factory is a fine modern factory complex and it was great to see so many cars in the car park giving testimony to the importance of local industry with a lot of people employed locally.

Landscaping:

There was little formal landscaping around the town, though some was noted on the Northlandsa road. Both the Catholic and Protestant graveyards were very well landscaped and congratulations to all concerned. I feel the town could do with some more planting of trees in different areas.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

It could be educational to do a study of the wildlife habitats of the area, as there certainly is a lot of wildlife living adjacent to the town in the trees and pasture land.

Litter Control:

The control of litter was quite poor on the day as there was a consistency of litter in many parts of the town. Lots of cigarette ends were thrown on parts of the footpaths and there also was a residue of chewing gum.

Waste Minimisation:

The bring centre on the Carrickmacross road had ten bins for bottles etc and there were two separate bins for clothes. Unfortunately there were about ten full black plastic bags thrown there that looked like to be containing household waste.

Tidiness:

A few derelict houses were noted, in particular on the approach road from Kingscourt and on the Baliborough road and Zetor tractors looked untidy with a derelict house next door.

Residential Areas:

There is a fine County Council housing estate on the Bailieborough road that were maintained neat and tidy. There are some other fine houses all around the town and the one house that caught my eye was a cream coloured one near the Post Office that had a selection of different flowers in hanging baskets and window boxes.

There are about four new housing estates springing up on the Carrickmacross road, and it appears the population of Shercock will more than double when the estates are finished.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

All the roads had good signposts for the town. The hedges were, for the most part, well maintained. I feel that the approaches to Shercock could be improved somewhat with the planting of some more trees.

General Impression:

It could be a good approach to get residents associations set up in the new housing estates as, generally speaking, such associations have a positive effect on estates. You could also ensure that the building contractors erect suitable nameplates for the estates. Hopefully, we will see Shercock competing once again in Tidy Towns!