

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Shannon** Ref: **88**

County: **Clare** Mark: **254**

Category: **F** Date(s): **29/06/2007**
16/08/2007

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	45
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	25
Waste Minimisation	20	16
Tidiness	30	12
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	254

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your excellent application and detailed town map, which allowed the Adjudicator to identify areas within the town and its surrounds, during the course of Adjudication. The Committee has built a very good relationship with Clare County Council, Shannon Town Council and Shannon Development. The overall appearance and positive developments have resulted in a massive confidence boost for Shannon and its residents.

The Built Environment:

The Adjudicator has had recourse to visit Shannon at intervals over the last number of years and the standard of presentation in the built environment has continued to improve in structure and colour co-ordination. The Buoyant economy has given Shannon a new sense of confidence and this can be seen by the amount of new building developments and refurbishment of existing buildings that is taking place in the core area alone. The Shannon Tidy Towns Committee has played a very active part in encouraging this type of new confidence. Public Buildings in the town centre were presented to a high standard of presentation. Shannon Shopping Centre was admired, along with the beautiful planned New Town Square. St. Paul's, Mary Immaculate Churches were also of a very high standard of presentation. Well done to all involved in their maintenance and upkeep. The Graveyard at Ilaunamanagh was also very well presented, again well done to all involved in its maintenance and upkeep. The Schools were also in very good condition, along with Shannon Garda Station and Shannon Health Centre

Landscaping:

The overall standard in this category was very good and has been underpinned by the proactive work of the Committee. As one enters the Town the evidence of this ongoing work is to be seen at its best. The wonderful strands of mature trees together with colourful planting, strike a very nice balance. Landscaping

arrangements by all Churches was very much admired and well done to all concerned for their approach to colour and maintenance of same. The Adjudicator witnessed numbers of Volunteers by The Kingdom Hall, very busy organizing planting of the surrounds. Again this is to be congratulated, with this Community Spirit Shannon will progress in this category overall.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

What a truly wonderful area on your doorstep the River Walk, a haven for Wildlife conservation, to be enjoyed by locals and visitors alike. Your initiatives have been noted and this Adjudicator looks forward to returning to experience all planned developments for this area in the future.

Litter Control:

Your efforts in trying to keep the town free from litter are laudable, but your task is not one to be envied. The town Centre was virtually litter free on Adjudication day, however some areas have fallen by the wayside in this regard. Black spots noted were The Crossroads, Finian's Park and Shannon Community Hall, bins were overflowing, litter visible throughout these areas.

Waste Minimisation:

This is a reasonable new area which needs to be addressed under the Nation Tidy Towns Competition. The Race Against Waste is a Campaign in raising awareness of better waste management practices. It is incumbent on us all to embrace this in light of our poor record within the wider European Community. The proposed Recycling Centre at Smithtown Ind. Est. is noted in your application, this will be of great benefit to Shannon and the wider community. Congratulations to the Schools on achieving the Green Flag status, this is very note worthy and indeed very important as it ensures Shannon School Children will spread the message of good Waste management among peers and even older siblings.

Tidiness:

The amount of ongoing building work has lead to a number of messy site areas and developers should be encouraged to keep these areas as tidy as possible. Outside of the above there is goodwill on the part of the local community to contribute by keeping areas immediate to their properties in good condition

Residential Areas:

Overall the standard in this category was quite good. Residential areas noted were Corrib Drive, Cul Na Greine, Rosmin, Gleann an Or, Tullyglass and Tullyvarriga, great credit is due to the residents for the maintenance and upkeep of their properties. Area to the back of Drumgeely Flats needs to be addressed; this was very untidy and needs to be attended to.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

All approach roads were in a very good condition; overall Back areas were also in a good condition with road surfaces to an acceptable standard.

General Impression:

The general impression from this Adjudicator's perspective is that Shannon has now gained an appetite for success in the National Tidy Towns Competition. The town has benefited hugely from this, as there is a strong sense of commitment to the Tidy Towns effort. Success does not come easy and no doubt there is a lot of hard work done behind the scenes to ensure that problem areas and issues are addressed. The interaction with Clare County Council, Shannon Town Council and other relevant agencies is important as it allows you to access resources required. Shannon has the potential to do very well in the National Tidy Towns competition in the years ahead. The Committee is wished well for the future.

Second Round Adjudication:

Shannon is a newly developed town close to the Shannon airport. It is unique to many other towns in the surrounding area as it is not based around an older central town. This is beneficial as it has allowed the creation of wide streets and all paths and roads are newly surfaced. However it is important to ensure that the town does still have a village or community atmosphere to it. The town square area outside Paddy Power could do well to have more landscaping and seating incorporated as it is currently concreted and is not set out to encourage residents to use the space. It is also a concern that there does not appear to be any cohesiveness to the new town centres buildings and further landscaping in this region would assist in uniting these. The area outside the library is well developed and assists in creating a community feel to the area. Development of further areas in this style would be very beneficial to the town. Residential areas of Shannon are generally well laid out and maintained and there are several new appealing

estates. However, some sites are still under construction and the completion and landscaping of these areas will greatly assist in the overall appeal. Some areas where developments meet the outskirts of town are very overgrown and tidying up here would make the village feel more completed. St Caimans School was well maintained and it was great to see a lot of green space available to the children. Completed estates were very well landscaped and the tree plantings on the nature strip were admired and will continue to grow and add a natural environment to these areas. The Ballycasey Estate area would benefit from further tree plantings. Residential areas were quite clean and free of litter on the day of adjudication. Most of the town centre was also litter free with some exceptions being the road from Lidl up to the main street where litter featured quite prominently on the side of the road and in a disused block. Shannon is a town still in development. The completed residential areas have generally been successful in creating a community feel, however further work on the town centre needs to be undertaken to gain this community aspect. Now that most building in the centre appears to have been completed, working on these finer areas would greatly assist in creating a town that encourages residents to relax and interact in public spaces. We look forward to hearing reports of your continued development in future submissions. Well done on the work you have undertaken to this point. It has been a great achievement to reach second round adjudication.