

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Carrick-on-Shannon** Ref: **543**
County: **Leitrim** Mark: **276**
Category: **D** Date(s): **29/07/2007**
09/08/2007

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	47
The Built Environment	50	37
Landscaping	50	40
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	24
Litter Control	50	28
Waste Minimisation	20	15
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	34
General Impression	10	9
TOTAL MARK	400	276

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Carrick-On-Shannon to the 2007 Tidy Towns Competition. Your entry documentation submitted was really excellent as was the map of the town. The documentation clearly identified the work done in the town in the past year. Indeed great progress has been made in Carrick-On-Shannon since 2006. The lack of the FAS support scheme in the past few years obviously makes it more difficult for your Tidy Towns Committee and supporting organisations. The adjudicator noted that a 3 Year Tidy Towns Plan for Carrick-On-Shannon was not included with your entry documentation. This Plan is highly recommended and it would be of great help to your committee and supporting organisation and agencies in terms of future work organisation. Your marks in this category are unusually high and at that level the production of such a Plan would normally be expected as part of the overall development approach for Carrick-On-Shannon. The adjudicator was interested in the schools competition 'Improve our Marks' and this is an imaginative approach to getting children thinking about and further involved in Tidy Towns. You seem to have good local sponsorship and this indicates the high regard that the community has for your important work for Carrick-On-Shannon.

The Built Environment:

Carrick-On-Shannon is very lucky in that it has an interesting range of buildings from different periods in time that all combine well together to give character to the present day built environment. The Department of Family & Social Affairs building is modern in concept yet fits well with the beautiful waterside area of the town. Good developments have also taken place in the past year in terms of Retail and Business Parks. It is encouraging to read of the great success that the Farmers Market appears to be enjoying. The Dock at Sr. Georges Terrace represents a great modern community use for an old building and the new Mitsubishi building is another modern architectural statement of merit. At the School on Station Road the road boundary wall needs to be painted. The Bank building on Georges Street in red brick caught the eye as did the colourful

Landmark Hotel premises. The colour scheme used here is bright and brave but it works extremely well and is another manifestation of the modern and progressive Carrick-On-Shannon. The retail area beyond the Landmark Hotel in the direction of the Family & Social Affairs building is most attractive and again colour has been used on these shops as a design feature to great effect. The Leisure Complex is yet another modern building of interest and great community importance. Some weed growth was noted in the grass areas here and a higher level of landscaping is necessary here to compliment the building. The Community Hospital is an attractive building in cut Limestone. Fine landscaping and a beautiful stone road boundary wall sets the scene for the Community School that was so well presented on adjudication day. At the Catholic Church the landscaping frames the main entrance in a most attractive manner. It is suggested that the iron railings be painted in an appropriate colour. The nearby AIB frontage is effective and the timber windows at the first floor have thankfully been retained. The P. Flynn corner situated black and white painted premises was most attractive. This premises does not have front elevation lights and has just one projecting sign and this is perfectly designed. Congratulations to the owners on this presentation. The Market Yard nearby is a great area to browse and wander through and the presentation here as usual was very good. It is very satisfying to see a new use for a beautiful old building as at The Victoria Hall Restaurant that presented so well on adjudication day. Some poor signage was noted in the centre of Carrick-On-Shannon. Some signs were out of scale with their façade and some poor quality lettering was also noted. At the Rowing Club Boat House consideration might be given to the painting of the gate and balcony railings in matt black.

Landscaping:

On the Dublin road the space between Heaton's and the roadside has some landscaping potential as the area looked a little rough. The work now completed at the riverside is excellent especially the interesting walkway that allows the visitor to walk some distance out into the river. The new landscaping between the road and the water even at this early stage looked well and it is good to see that the new services building is now completed to a high standard. Landscaping on approach roads will be mentioned later in this Report but the standard again is extremely high. Hanging baskets and window baskets were admired along the Main Street and provided additional colour. The work done on both the roundabouts on the N4 Dublin Road is excellent. The Town Park and Childs Park were beautifully presented and the standard of grass maintenance here was excellent.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Riverfront amenity area is an excellent area for observing wildlife and it would be good to see some additional information on the wildlife of this area available for the visitor. A good place to locate a small information panel would be at the seating areas on the new walkway. Good luck to the Boys National School as they seek to achieve Green Flag status for their school; well done to the Marist Girls School for achieving this in 2007.

Litter Control:

Some litter was noted at St. Mary's Close and at the Town Park parking area on Circular Road. The quantities in both locations were however small. On Station Road litter was noted and at the landscaped area at the front of Tesco. The Bring Bank at Tesco was a little disappointing in presentation terms as some litter had gathered here. This is not the fault of Tesco but everyone must use such facilities properly. At the Emerald Star base the large open yellow bin for rubbish looked quite untidy and detracted from an otherwise well landscaped and presented cruiser base. Can this bin be screened with a narrow opening for rubbish disposal?

Waste Minimisation:

The two year energy reduction programme at the Marist Girls School sounds really interesting and do provide full details on this with your 2008 entry. The small segregation unit at Boat House Bay is well located and the adjudicator had not seen such a small unit before. It was well presented. Quite a large number of businesses appear to be actively involved in waste reduction and this is commendable. Carrick-On-Shannon seems to have made good progress on this in the past year.

Tidiness:

The further under-grounding of cables has been noted and this further improves the overall presentation of Marist Girls School. Very bad weed growth was noted at Station Road at the Welcome Sign. At The Dock weed growth needs to be removed from the older stone steps, and at the landscaped area at the front of Tesco bad weed growth and much litter was noted within the shrubs. Otherwise the Tesco property was excellently presented. 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. At the Park stone building the steps needed to be power-hosed and the yellow banding on each step repainted. Is the yellow banding really necessary?

Residential Areas:

At Inver Geal heavy landscaping was noted and this combines well with the good colour scheme used for this development. Good effective landscaping at private houses was a feature of Station Road. Private landscaping contributes much to the presentation of any town or village and residents in Carrick-On-Shannon are making great efforts in this regard. At Slián Iariann bad weed growth at roadside kerbing needs early attention. Along Georges Street some of the older period houses stood out with their attractive use of colour. The standard of apartment development in Carrick-On-Shannon appears to be quite high and the developments at the back of the Landmark Hotel impressed. Fine grass areas at Autumn View were well maintained and the landscaping at the entrance was noted. Some weed growth was noted at kerbs. Very high weeds at kerbs was observed at Oaklands (shown at Woodlands on the map?) while on the Old Dublin Road some road boundary walls needed to be painted.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

On the Leitrim approach the long timber fencing on both sides of the road needs some repairs and repainting or varnishing. The Summerhill approach impressed but the fine tall mature trees on the Dublin N4 approach are spectacular and provide such an excellent introduction to Carrick-On-Shannon from that side. The Bye-Pass approach with the well maintained grass margins creates a great sense of anticipation as you approach the town from this side. No recent work appears to have been done on the Frenchpark road while on the Sligo N4 road good verges were again the norm here.

General Impression:

Carrick-On-Shannon is a most attractive town in a beautiful location where excellent work is being done annually for Tidy Towns. Good luck with your 2008 projects.

Second Round Adjudication:

The Elphin and Roscommon road is quite industrial in nature, some litter was evident at the nameplate sign in this location. It was also a major problem to the gratings of basement areas in the vicinity of the Fashion House and also, to a lesser extent, along the main streets of the town. Advertising hoardings and flyposting should be discouraged, as they can give approach roads and streets a rather cluttered appearance. The sign to the Anchorage Bar was damaged and should be repaired, that to the Oarsman was rather flaky in appearance. Pounds Cheaper shopfront appeared quite dated and would benefit from a refurbishment. Armstrong's is an attractive traditional shopfront, which needed a fresh coat of paint. Dunne's is another attractive traditional front, which should be restored to its former glory. Flower tubs throughout the town made a positive impact. The development of the Dock building is marvelous and it is a great asset to the town. The plaza area with its fine hard landscaping, limestone steps and restored Doric column was most impressive. The colourful mosaic wall piece opposite the County Council Offices is most attractive. The modern stone building in this location was admired, although the rendered building in this complex appeared in need of some attention. The gates to the Rowing Club were somewhat rusty. The Costello Memorial Chapel is quite charming and unusual. Carrick on Shannon manages to maintain its unique charm despite the immense level of development that has taken place in the town in recent years.