

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Shinrone** Ref: **293**
County: **Offaly** Mark: **250**
Category: **B** Date(s): **20/08/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	42
The Built Environment	50	34
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	23
Litter Control	50	31
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	250

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Shinrone to the 2007 Tidy Towns Competition. It is most encouraging to see that your Tidy Towns Committee enjoys the strong support of FAS and the CES Scheme. Unfortunately the map provided in your Entry Form did not offer much assistance to the adjudicator. For 2008 it would be helpful if you could provide a map on which you have marked areas where you have carried out work specifically for the 2008 Tidy Towns Competition. Neither the Entry Form nor the Shinrone Tidy Towns Plan gave any clear indication of the projects carried out for this year's Competition. Marks can be awarded for new work or the extension of existing projects. It is recommended that your Tidy Towns Plan allocated projects to an individual year or years. In this way your progress from year to year can be easily measured. A lot of new development is taking place in and around Shinrone and it is good to read that your committee is engaging with developers to achieve the best environmental outcome for the village. Your interaction with the National School is commended and the associated work of the County Environmental Officer. The Building Healthier Communities questionnaire sounds an interesting project and it would have been useful to have had details of the results in terms of environmental issues.

The Built Environment:

The presentation of the Community Centre was found to be good though some litter was noted in the planting around the walls of the car park. The inside of the concrete road boundary walls here would be improved if painted. The painting of the timber work of the Spain premises has made a great difference to that part of the village. New development at the GAA nearby was also examined. On the Birr road the Graveyard was neatly presented and the gates appeared to have been recently repainted. A good colour choice at the Catholic Church highlights this building effectively and the overall presentation was neat and tidy. On the Birr approach road a small corrugated iron building was noted at the School sign and this would be improved if painted green to help blend it into the landscape here. The presentation of the National School has been brightened

up effectively by the provision of flower tubs and trees. Another building that caught the eye was the Nursing Home with its well maintained landscaping. The paintwork of the some of the windows at The Village Inn would be improved if repainted for 2008. Some derelict buildings were noted especially along the Cloughjordan road but the buildings here are not obtrusive. The Church of Ireland Church dating from 1820 is a beautiful building well presented. Just a little weed growth was noted on the short road down to the Church.

Landscaping:

Landscaping is a strong aspect of the overall presentation of Shinrone and good examples were noted in a number of areas. Along the Main Street the young trees are maturing well and add valued colour to the streetscape. A small landscaped area at the Telephone Box caught the eye. Here the small steel ESB box would be improved if painted green by the ESB. An excellent landscaped grass area was noted at the Ballingarry road junction and the grass was being cut on the day of the adjudication visit. Your policy of planting native trees is strongly supported by this adjudicator. Just beyond the Catholic Church the roadside landscaped area with the maturing trees looked well on adjudication day. This provides an attractive introduction to Shinrone from that approach. At the riverside area the planting here needs to be trimmed back from the pathways.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The small riverside area is quite attractive and the water was high on the day of the visit. Unfortunately quantities of litter were noted under the roadway arch. It would be interesting to have an information panel at this riverside area that gave some simple basic information about the wildlife to be found in the Shinrone area.

Litter Control:

Based on the adjudication day visit litter control was not especially good in Shinrone. On that day litter was noted at the arch under the road at the riverside amenity area. Litter was also noted at the Graveyard car park. The official signage at the Bring Centre had not been erected though the Bring Centre itself was neat and tidy. Some litter was noted on the Roscrea road, along the Main Street and at the side walls of the Community Centre car park.

Waste Minimisation:

This is a new category in the Tidy Towns Competition first introduced in 2006. The purpose of this new category is to encourage Tidy Towns Committees and the local community to get involved in projects that will reduce waste and encourage recycling. Marks can be gained by Shinrone for the promotion of best practice. This can include community guidance on methods of reducing waste such as segregating litter during clean up events. The organising of a Workshop on waste minimisation in your area is another initiative that you might consider. This could be held on a waste minimisation community awareness day as part of a series of local initiatives. Your local school or schools should also be involved with their own waste minimisation projects. In regard to waste minimisation it is important to remember that quite small actions can sometimes have a significant waste reduction impact. The circular that you sent to businesses in the Shinrone area in regard to recycling is an important initiative but what were the results to date?

Tidiness:

The area with the Stop Sign opposite the Grotto looked a little untidy. There is potential here for the provision of roadside kerbing and the planting of a landscaped area between the kerbing and the wall. Some weed growth was noted in front of Head 2 Toe and along the short road up to the Church of Ireland Church.

Residential Areas:

Housing estates in Shinrone were generally well presented on adjudication day and attractively presented houses were noted opposite the Catholic Church. Shinrone Oaks is an attractive estate but would be improved by the provision of some trees on the inner well presented grass area. Good grass areas and raised landscaping is an attractive feature of Castlecourt estate. Along St. Mary's Terrace a few roadside railings and walls needed to be painted while at Annebrook View the raised area at the entrance needed some planting to highlight this feature. Many individual properties make a significant landscaping contribution to Shinrone.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approach roads were impressive and the well presented green verges added much to the approaches to Shinrone. On the Birr approach the barbed wire fencing opposite the Graveyard could be replaced by a continuation of the stone wall. Some verge and road surface damage was noted on some of the roads and this needs urgent Local Authority attention.

General Impression:

The good work carried out on your approach roads is certainly a highlight of Shinrone. It was a pleasure for the adjudicator to visit the well presented village of Shinrone for the first time and the adjudicator wishes you well with your 2008 projects.