

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Carrick-on-Shannon** Ref: **543**  
County: **Leitrim** Mark: **287**  
Category: **D** Date(s): **24/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	47
The Built Environment	50	39
Landscaping	50	41
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	28
Litter Control	50	29
Waste Minimisation	20	15
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	34
General Impression	10	9
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>287</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Carrick On Shannon is welcome to the National TidyTowns Competition in its 50th anniversary year. Thank you for your submission which was quite detailed and we wish you every success in the implementation of your plan. It is good to note your success in working with all sectors of the community and most particularly local schools. The 'before and after' photographs are an excellent record of your achievements. Your Heritage Day in September and your multicultural day in July are fitting festivals for a town of your stature and location. Don't forget to make good use of the TidyTowns website at [www.tidytowns.ie](http://www.tidytowns.ie), it is full of useful information and ideas.

### **The Built Environment:**

The Tesco shopping centre is an attractive development at the edge of the town and is beautifully landscaped and maintained to a high standard. There are an number of well presented shopfronts and the 'Jennifer G O H' premises is being considered for the shopfront award. The Estelle Living premises look well also however posters in the door here detract from an otherwise good presentation. You should bring the problem of unsightly posters and stickers in window displays to the attention of shop owners as these can spoil an attractive shopfront. Well done on initiatives such as St George's Church and Heritage Centre and the Costello Memorial Church. The Dock premises has been beautifully refurbished retaining much of its character whilst at the same time introducing a contemporary touch with its choice of street furniture, it has been considered for the Architectural Award.

### **Landscaping:**

The landscaped greens and planted roundabouts of the bypass road were much admired by this adjudicator and are complemented nicely by container planting located at frequent intervals throughout the town. Your tree-planting programme continues and your planting/replanting of trees on the Leitrim Road is noted. Well

done also on your maintenance of the new River front Amenity Park. Where possible ensure that plants chosen are native species to support of wildlife

#### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The new Riverfront Amenity Park is an excellent development as plants chosen complement their natural setting and are supportive of wildlife. The park must be beautiful at night with lighting featured in contemporary style. Your plan to develop a Meadow in the new town park development when it is complete is an excellent initiative and we would like to be kept updated on its progress.

#### **Litter Control:**

It is good to note your activities regarding the elimination of dumping, the importance of this cannot be overstated. Well done on the introduction of weekly litter picking, no doubt litter is segregated for recycling. Litter control was very good throughout the town however some was noted in the river at the Riverside Park. This was not a serious problem however it should not be allowed to become one. We applaud your plan to expand litter picking activity to twice weekly.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

The heightening of public awareness regarding the importance of recycling cannot be over emphasised and indeed a Waste Audit would be an excellent initiative to determine the amount of waste generated by the community and to devise strategies to reduce this. It is good to note your composting project and in particular the involvement of the National Schools in recycling and composting schemes. Congratulations on their success in the Green Schools Programme.

#### **Tidiness:**

A number of undeveloped sites on the entrance to the town from the Dublin road are problematic in terms of Tidy however upon development this situation will be redressed. Well done on your liaison with business interests regarding the tidiness of their premises and particularly their curtilage areas. We wish you every success in your attempt to eliminate advertising billboards from your streets and to improve the signage situation in the town.

#### **Residential Areas:**

The majority of residential properties are well presented together with communal green areas. A number of older town centre properties could be improved to their roadside facade and those on Leitrim Street are an example. The committee should work with new residents to encourage them on board the TidyTowns initiative and continue to encourage them to take responsibility in particular for communal areas within their own development. Each resident should be encouraged to pay attention to their roadside boundary walls and the area immediately outside of this and to take responsibility in this respect. Have you considered initiatives such as 'Meet The Neighbours' evenings?

#### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The quality of road and footpath surfaces in general throughout the town is good. Car-parking facilities are quite good also and car-parking is orderly. Most street furniture is well presented with few exceptions. The bridge over the Shannon is a fine feature of the town and is maintained to a high standard. Road signage is quite good.

#### **General Impression:**

Carrick On Shannon is a beautiful town with many traditional and contemporary features of which it can be proud. Recreation amenity facilities appear to be plentiful and the town is hopefully as pleasant a place in which to live as it is to visit. Well done!