

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Shanagarry** Ref: **1982**  
County: **Cork(South)** Mark: **203**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **18/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	25
Landscaping	50	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	30
Litter Control	50	25
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	20
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>203</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Thank you very much for the completed entry form and map of the area, and you are most welcome to the competition. I note you have 30 committee members. Good commitment is evident when people give up some of their spare time to attend monthly meetings and take part in village and beach clean ups. You are getting support from Cork County Council and other agencies. It is important, as you are doing, to keep the local people informed of your activities. The schools play an important role in society and it is good that you are in contact with them. Good luck with the local social events.

### **The Built Environment:**

The amateur boxing club premises needs some attention. The Goal Post was very well presented. The Church of the Immaculate Conception nestles peacefully and I admired the fine statue outside it. But the Church needs attention to the paintwork and the gutters. The Stephen Pearse Gallery was crisp and fresh with some attractive landscaping. The old church-like building at the back of the church could be restored, but great care is needed here. I suggest you consult with the conservation officer at Cork County Council and National Monuments at Dún Scéine, Harcourt Lane Dublin 2 and you could send good photographs of the building with any correspondence. This is a quite historical building and therefore very important. You could find that grants could be got for to do some of this work. The Russel Rovers pavilion is a good spacious building, but I felt it could be freshened up with some painting and the gutters also need attention.

### **Landscaping:**

I loved the old parish pump. I found some nice bits of landscaping in the village. You could plant some more trees and I recommend you get a copy a book – OUR TREES- ISBN 0-9518612-5-5. I note the school won four home school garden competitions. I loved the amenity area with good garden furniture and a litter bin, where the grass was neat and trim. The rockery here is special with wonderful flowers, some of which were

attractive wild flowers. This is a picturesque area with the great backdrop of mature trees. I noticed one or two volunteer trees in the rockery and these could be carefully removed. Other stone features were admired. Builder's rubble was dumped in a corner of this fine area, and you could insist on it being removed forthwith.

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

I note you have school education sessions on garden insects. I understand that one mature oak tree could accommodate in excess of 450 different types of insects! There is a lovely rural path up through the wooded area, is it a public access? And could this walk be extended up further? There is an abundance of wildlife in all those great stone walls, trees and around the little stream. I note the park walks are regularly cleaned.

#### **Litter Control:**

The litter was, for the most part, under control and I inspected the well serviced litter bins. You could consider taking part in the Cork County Council litter league at the next opportunity

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

A treat was in store when I visited the school, and it was wonderful to see the green flag outside. The little vegetable plots are great and the hen house, hens included, were most unusual for a school plot. I admired the bird box. The entire area around the school was very well landscaped and the splendour of it would rival any similar school setting in Ireland. It is very educational for all to see the composting being done. Well done to all concerned.

#### **Tidiness:**

For the most part the village was clean and tidy. The building site obviously defaces the village, but there is little you can do about this. A derelict house was noted across from the building site, and this could be camouflaged to improve its appearance. Old remains of a notice board at the church could be removed. The derelict site near the church at the crossroads could be screened off with suitable trees and hedging. Derelict places were noted on the way up the school.

#### **Residential Areas:**

I note that residents maintain their estates, and for the most, these estates are good. There are some wonderful private houses all around the area that are maintained in fantastic condition, and displayed some great trees, shrubs, lawns and flowers.

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

Most of the roads need attention, especially the road up to the school. I recommend you make contact with the local County Council engineer on this important issue. I feel there should be a footpath provided from the corner of the village and extended all the way up to the school. Roadside fencing is good and consists mainly of traditional stone walls. The road signs are clean and distinct.

#### **General Impression:**

I hope you do not find my report too be too negative. There is natural beauty in Shanagarry and you could, over time, improve the area further. I suggest you draw up a three to five year plan, and this need not be an elaborate document. Simply write down a list of items that you feel you could do something with and work on them. The derelict places are out of your control, more or less, but you could consult with the engineers from Cork County Council. I will remember my visit to Shanagarry, especially the wonderful school.