

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Shannonvale** Ref: **532**  
County: **Cork(West)** Mark: **245**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **26/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	19
Litter Control	50	32
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	35
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>245</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Congratulations to the Shannonvale Community Association for entering the TidyTowns Competition 2009. Thank you for your submission and for your map. The hand drawn sketch of the town which highlights the places you regard as being most important for the TidyTowns Competition is a great help to the adjudicator. As you have got only three members on your committee it would be very demanding on your time to submit a 3-5 Year Plan also but such a plan would help you set immediate and medium term targets for yourselves and help you decide what definable projects you might undertake. It is such a pity that you cannot enlist more support from the new, young residents of the village. You would benefit from the extra pairs of hands and they would benefit from your experience in the competition over the years. Maybe the introduction of new members should be your most immediate project. Your submission suggests that you make everyone welcome to participate in the work. Now get them to participate in the planning and organisation.

### **The Built Environment:**

The village centre is dominated by Phairs and its looks very impressive. When one goes searching one finds the mill, a sad memory of a thriving past. Adjacent to it is a fine house, obviously connected to the life in the mill, a fine period building now deteriorating. 1798 and its impact on the immediate vicinity is well charted in memorials in Shannonvale and all look impressive. The Noel Phair memorial garden is an attractive way to maintain a corner of the junction and a fitting tribute to one who earned the esteem of the village. The information boards are in an accessible position but one wonders if they are of any great value now. The finger signposting is most attractive and informative. Eventually, with the help of the map, the Templebrien Stone Circle was located. An agency such as the Board of Works might take an interest in this. These stones are interestingly replicated at the Phair memorial. The steps on the wall were a great help in gaining access. Well done on the memorial to Tadhg Ó hUallaigh.

**Landscaping:**

TidyTown Committees have been active in Shannonvale for many years. The village park is evidence of the great work carried out by them. At this stage the park may be in need of a facelift. Where would one find such a mosaic on a park wall? The lantern lamps are attractive but they need to have the mould washed. The grass area is a bit hayey. The seats are in need of attention. The flower boxes at the 1798 memorial add to the dignity of the site as does the bedding in the village centre. The flower boxes on the railed walkway to the estate bring summer vibrancy to the area about. The banks in the car park at Phairs have been well landscaped but these shrubberies are in need of attention.

**Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

Your submission was somewhat vague in the wildlife section. The sound of the running water at the mills and the many fine trees suggest that there is great scope for improved awareness of wildlife in Shannonvale.

**Litter Control:**

With so much traffic through the village litter control has to be difficult. But your weekly litter patrols are proving worthwhile. The park was the area most littered. There was also some litter in the area of the bar and in the Beechwood estate.

**Waste Minimisation:**

The works being carried out by you at present are worthwhile. A more expanded account of these activities would be helpful. It could benefit your committee to study the booklet 'Race Against Waste'. Such a study would stimulate new waste elimination projects for you. Remember that the emphasis in this section is not on litter control but on minimising waste in your community.

**Tidiness:**

There has been so much good work done in the village so that it would present a tidy and attractive place. The dumping of vehicles and the untidy appearance of some of the enterprises must test your patience. One is entitled to carry on business on their own property but there are responsibilities attached also. Glad to read in your submission that the Gardai have been made aware of the threat from traffic.

**Residential Areas:**

The houses of Shannonvale enhance the village appearance. The houses at an Garrán enhance the area and bring a modern atmosphere to this traditional village. That traditional village is expressed across the road in the fine walls, the montbretia and fuchsia hedging, climbing roses and the wrought iron gates. The An Muilleann namestone for the estate of two houses is really good. The timber fencing is also most attractive. Be careful that broken down walls do not further deteriorate. The two fine timber gates are not only attractive but they present an invitation to climb and wander into the river valley. The quaint terrace of houses that step down the hill are possibly evidence of the importance of the mill to the local economy. They are gaily coloured. The railed walkway from the Beechwood estate to the village junction provides easy and safe access. This estate is in need of attention with weeds on the kerbs creating an untidy appearance.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The welcoming name stone when one arrives from the West Cork Technology Park is a great start to one's visit to Shannonvale. Make sure that the ground cover does not hide this welcome. Similarly the namestone on the Clonakilty approach road is impressive but here there is need for maintenance of the surrounding stone work. The verges have been treated along here. Ensure that this work is done regularly. The Ballinscarty approach road is equally impressive.

**General Impression:**

The adjudicator became more informed on the importance of the mill in the affairs of Shannonvale when visiting the Model Railway Village in Clonakilty. One would have loved to have got that information somewhere in Shannonvale itself. The history of the mill is so important in the inheritance of Shannonvale that it needs to be commemorated somewhere. The infusion of new blood through the new housing developments will bring added life and energy to the Shannonvale environment. The general impression one

gets of Shannonvale is of a village in some decline at present despite the construction at Garrán. It is a shame that more support cannot be mustered to give a renewed facelift to the beautiful village.