

Tidy Towns Competition 2012

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Shanagolden** Ref: **467**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **232**
Category: **B** Date(s): **28/06/2012**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2011	Mark Awarded 2012
Overall Development Approach	50	30	30
The Built Environment	50	31	31
Landscaping	50	37	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	17	17
Litter Control	50	30	30
Tidiness	30	15	15
Waste Minimisation	20	7	7
Residential Areas	40	27	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31	31
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	400	231	232

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome Shanagolden to the 2012 TidyTowns competition. Your entry is very much appreciated. Please use the entry form to tell us as much about your work for this year's competition as you can and your plans for the future. Also, please do not feel that you have to confine your comments to the entry form. Add additional pages if you wish, even photos. The map was appreciated by your adjudicator. We note that your committee has increased to 11 members. Well done. You tell us that you have monthly meetings but meet more frequently for clean up, jobs, etc. We would encourage you to develop a 3 year plan. This will give structure to your work, help to prioritise projects set targets and will help in preparing applications to support agencies for additional funding. In your entry form you mention that you have very committed FAS workers but you do not list FAS where the entry form asks about agencies and bodies that have supported your activities. In the village your adjudicator saw a FAS sign saying that Shanagolden Community Council and FAS were partners. Other entrants from Limerick list Limerick County Council, West Limerick Resource and FAS as support agencies. Shanagolden should be listing them, too. Elsewhere in your entry form you mention that you do not fit the criteria. It may be helpful to have a discussion with the Heritage Officer in Limerick County Council. Your public representatives will also advise you further. You mention that you communicate using a newsletter and the local paper. Please send us copies of any mention of your activities as they can be taken into account when marks are being decided and will be returned to you at the end of the competition. Your liaison with the school is noted. You say that you are disappointed and do not get recognition. yet you got an increase of 8 marks last year, which is quite high and the best form of recognition by last year's adjudicator. As mentioned above, please use the entry form to tell us as much as you can and add anything else that will increase our knowledge e.g. photos.

The Built Environment:

Shanagolden has some notable buildings in its built heritage. Overlooking the village is the church which is an impressive, well painted building with attractive landscaping on both sides of its entrance gates. On the opposite corner of the cross-roads is a car park obviously used by churchgoers. Its surface could be improved and the perimeter wall and a small building in a corner would look much better if painted. Weed control is needed at the base of the wall and some paper litter was seen in the centre of the car park.

Nearby school was flying its Green Flag, and the building and grounds were well presented. It had well filled window boxes and the grassed area with trees and shrubs was well maintained, neat, tidy and no litter. A small single window cottage on Main Street is eye catching and nicely painted. Nearby Education Resource Centre (school) has a front wall that needs to be cleaned and painted. The Grotto would be enhanced if the gate was painted, the steps cleaned and the weeds growing in the gravel eliminated. Main Street and centre of the village looked well. Many properties newly painted and the pub on the corner - The Old Stand, was being painted on adjudication day. On the opposite corner - West End house is eye catching with window boxes. Another corner house on L6118 is also eye catching. It is very well presented with a lovely display of flowers in its garden. Unfortunately, the property on the fourth corner is eye catching for the wrong reason, dereliction. Shanagolden Co-op has one small building that looks well, nicely painted and with hanging baskets. However, the other buildings are an eyesore at a key focal point of the village. The reality is that there is little that Shanagolden TidyTowns can do about it. On L6118 Shanagolden Parish Hall stands out. This spacious complex looks very well, being clean and well painted. However, the recycling centre gets adverse comments in the Litter Control category. The post and rail fence at the back of its car park is broken in 2 places but the grass verge was neatly maintained. Across the road the Captain Tim Madigan Memorial Park has a lot of well maintained landscaping. The adjoining cemetery with its old church tower is neat, clean and tidy. It has very attractive landscaping which will be commented on in the Landscaping category. The Monument was noted

Landscaping:

Landscaping in Shanagolden is of a very high standard, thanks to Shanagolden TidyTowns and the FAS workers, and is spread throughout the village. Some has already been mentioned e.g. the very attractive landscaping at the church. The landscaping at the Memorial Park is also much admired for its variety. The landscaping outside the cemetery is very good. Three large, circular, stone faced beds with lots of colourful flowers stand on well maintained grassed areas flanking the path to the gate. A stone wall runs along the footpath. It is the most attractive entrance to a cemetery that this adjudicator has yet seen. Other landscaping in the centre of the village was admired such as the square, grassed area at the junction of the road to Glyn. In the centre of it is a large stone faced circular bed with flowers and shrubs and a well. A lamp post is adorned with hanging baskets. In the centre of the village a circular bed in the middle of the cross roads adds a splash of colour while across from it a large flower bed and trees distract the eye from the Co-op. behind them. A circular stone faced raised bed with a castellated top has lots of summer colour and a clean seat beside it. The nicely painted cottage with ivy on its wall and the hanging baskets is eye catching. The bridge is an opportunity missed. Its parapets could be used for hanging baskets or flower boxes.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The back garden of the West End house has a high wall around it so the adjudicator could not see anything. Will the public have access to it? The provision of bird and bat boxes was noted. The old church tower seems ideal for bats. Other entrants find that a wildlife survey helps to identify opportunities for projects in this category. Pupils in a school that is taking part in the Green Flag programme have helped other entrants with this task. A useful web site is www.birdwatchireland.ie.

Litter Control:

Shanagolden had very little litter evident on adjudication day. Already mentioned is the litter in the car park opposite the church. The recycling centre in the Community Hall car park was badly littered, in front of, and behind, the containers, including the clothes container. Your clean ups are having the desired result as is your initiative involving the school in litter awareness. There was very little litter evident on adjudication day. Well done to all involved.

Tidiness:

There was a broken seat lying in the grass beside the bridge. There is a broken village tap on the road from the church to the school. It should be renovated or removed. There is an abandoned building site on the Clashganniff road past the school. It is an eye sore. However, it will not impact adversely on your marks because the blight of unfinished housing estates is a national issue and not one that can be solved by TidyTowns Committees.

Waste Minimisation:

Well done to the rugby club for collecting scrap metal. The recycling centre was seen. Noted that the school has a recycling project.

This can be a difficult category for some entrants. The TidyTowns handbook should be consulted as it has advice and tips. Your TidyTowns committee is expected to be proactive in promoting best practise to the community. You could use the newsletter for this by featuring tips on ways to reduce waste. An entrant - a village, not very far from Shanagolden, carried out a survey among 10 families who agreed to implement a waste minimisation regime for an agreed period. The results of the survey showed that the families were surprised at the amount of waste they could avoid and the TidyTowns committee had results that were passed on to the rest of the community.

Residential Areas:

Many residences in the village made an effort to enhance themselves for the competition and they are commended for that. Your adjudicator is not going to compare one residential area with another. That would be invidious. Shanid Gardens is a mature, well presented neighbourhood. A community that takes pride in its place. A well filled stone faced raised flower bed is at one corner of the entrance while a grassed, landscaped area runs behind a stone wall from the other corner. Neighbourhood name sign stands on neatly trimmed verge. Well maintained sports field is on its doorstep, a wonderful amenity.

Park View is also a well presented neighbourhood with a large grassed area at its entrance. It has mature trees. The neighbourhood name sign sits in a flower bed. 3 flower beds await planting. Other grassed areas further enhance this development, one with a well filled flower bed that adds summer colour.

Both neat, tidy and litter free.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approach from Newcastlewest: village name on 50 K traffic sign. Dirty. Needs to be washed. Verges neatly trimmed. Approach from Foynes: village name sign needs to be washed. Verge neatly trimmed. Nice old stone wall on left hand approach. Attractive 'Failte' signs on approach roads. Good use of Irish. Approach from Rathkeale: verges neatly trimmed and residences on approach to church well painted. Road had bad surface at church. Bad road surfaces elsewhere in village. Road markings almost worn away in places. Approach road at Shanid Gardens; Splendid views over surrounding countryside.

General Impression:

Shanagolden TidyTowns has further enhanced the village for the 2012 TidyTowns competition. However, there are categories - Wildlife and Natural Amenities, Tidiness, Waste Minimisation, where you can and should increase your marks. Assistance may be available from other bodies that are assisting other entrants in the competition. You should open discussions with them. We look forward to getting your entry for the 2013 competition. Thank you Shanagolden TidyTowns.