

*CARRICK-ON-SHANNON
COUNTY LEITRIM*



*TIDY TOWNS ENTRY
2009*

INTRODUCTION:

(Please Note: This is the online version so there many images omitted for ease of download)

Carrick-on-Shannon is a thriving town in the Northwest of Ireland. It is the undisputed inland boating capital of Ireland, being home to Emerald Star and Carrick Craft boating companies. The river Shannon offers some of the best coarse fishing in Europe and has attracted anglers and water lovers from all corners of the world. Carrick-on-Shannon has an abundance of amenities for all the family. Horse and pony riding facilities are available but if you fancy a more relaxing afternoon or evening, why not take a trip on the "Moon River" passenger cruiser. It offers regular daily sailings as well as night sailings with Bar and live Music at the weekends.

The town itself has had its fair share of economic success from the Celtic Tiger. This has resulted in an explosion of new restaurants, bars and shops to match the newfound wealth of the town. There are also many important monuments for sight seeing enthusiasts and those interested in historical studies. The Costello Memorial Church is the smallest Church in Ireland and is reputed to be the second smallest in the world. The town has a thriving Theatre Company "The Dock" which has regular productions. There is also a large Leisure Centre, with indoor swimming pool, an ultra modern Omniplex Cinema, a

Bowling Alley and an 18 hole Golf Course situated on the outskirts of the town.

3 – 5 YEAR PLAN

*TO BRING CARRICK-ON-SHANNON TO THE
‘TIDIEST TOWN IN IRELAND’
STATUS WITHIN THE NEXT 5 YEARS*

The aims of the Committee are:

- ◇ Ongoing contact with Leitrim County Council to ensure that Carrick-on-Shannon is developed in conjunction with the needs of the community.
- ◇ To continue and improve our weekly LITTER PICK around the town and surrounding areas.
- ◇ To look after painting of street furniture and flower boxes around the town, with the help of volunteers from various businesses in the town.
- ◇ To continue to encourage the public through notes in the local paper and in flyers delivered to businesses to keep outside their property neat, tidy and litter free.
- ◇ Through contact with the local authority to improve the number and quality of dustbins and ensure a daily bin emptying service.
- ◇ To continue to improve on landscaped areas.
- ◇ To look after flower containers and shrubbery within the town.
- ◇ To encourage the public to display window boxes and hanging baskets and to maintain them to a high standard.
- ◇ We will continue to liaise with the Community Wardens and also with the Environmental Officer who visits the Schools and continues to encourage young people to recycle and not to throw litter on the ground.

- ◇ We continue in our efforts to encourage each residential area to take responsibility for its own patch.
- ◇ We are looking into the erection of new Bilingual Street Signs around the town.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

- **‘TOWN PARK’ is a new development situated between St. Georges Terrace and Quay Road. It is a major revamp of a previously unoccupied grassy area and when completed will link up with the Rowing Club on Quay Road and the Tennis Courts on St. Georges Terrace. It is being redeveloped by Leitrim County Council, with funding secured from the Development Contribution Scheme. This development will provide the town with a new area for people to meet and relax as it will contain a large circular seating area as its focal point. Paved pathways will allow people to enter and exit on three different sides of the park and meandering pathways within the park itself will allow you to stroll around and take in the extensive landscaped trees and shrubbery. Towards the back area of the park there will be a meadow area along the boundary wall encouraging the growth of wild flowers and fauna. There will also be a green space designed for playing boles or boules. Seating will be positioned at various points throughout the park overlooking the River Shannon. (Map of Town Park development included). The official opening of the new park is scheduled towards the end of May 2009.**
- **Work on the exterior of The Costello Memorial Church has finally been completed. It has been lovingly restored to its former standard. An application for funding to restore the interior of the building is at present being considered and if secured, will see the Costello Memorial Church once again opened to the public sometime next year. The Historical Society in Carrick-on-Shannon have put a lot of hard work and negotiation into this project and it is due to their efforts that the restoration of the Church is as advanced as it is.**
- **Funding has been secured from the Development Contribution Scheme in conjunction with Leitrim County Council, for decorative security railings and new street lighting to be erected along the quay area where car parking facilities are available. This will make the area a safer and more attractive place for tourists and locals alike.**
- **The car parking area opposite Aras An Chontae, Leitrim County Council’s main building, (where the Man & Boy statue is situated), is also due for redevelopment.**

Funding has been secured from the Development Contribution Scheme in conjunction with Leitrim County Council, to completely redo the area and provide more car parking facilities for locals and Tourists. The grassy patch directly under the beautiful 'Mosaic' covered wall has been cleared of all the weeds etc. and is due to be replanted with shrubs and flowers in time for the opening of the new Town Park.

- **'Rosebank' Retail Park** situated on the left hand side of Tesco, just off the new roundabout on the N4 approach Road, continues to grow. To the front of 'Rosebank', development has taken place on waste ground which lay idle for years and was a real eyesore on the approach to the town. 'Esquires Coffee House' and 'Carphone Warehouse' opened earlier in the year and have added a new lease of life to the area. Next door to them the development of a new 'Kentucky Fried Chicken' unit is well on the way to completion. It is due to open mid July 2009. In the current economic climate, it will bring much needed jobs to the area.
- On the right hand side of Tesco, 'Woodies D.I.Y. and Gardening Centre' operates a huge retail store and has given the town a much better choice in D.I.Y. and garden supplies. It also comprises of a large car parking facility to the front of the premises.
The 'Rosebank' complex has recently taken on two part-time caretakers whose job it is to keep the area litter free. This is a much needed help to Tidy Towns as we know that the area is cleaned on a daily basis.
- On Bridge Street, the old Pounds Cheaper shop is currently undergoing a complete make over. They have demolished a good part of the old building and are rebuilding a purpose built unit, more suitable to today's requirements. When finished it will be a welcome addition to the town, as the old shop front was getting very shabby and grubby looking.
- At the lower end of Bridge Street, the old Chinese take away shop has been renovated to accommodate a Fish & Chip Shop. A new shop front has been fitted as well as new fixtures and fittings inside, which has to be an improvement. It is due to open shortly.
- Two shops on the other side of Bridge Street have changed ownership. 'Kaizen Boutique' has relocated to Main Street and Area 54 is sadly closing down. One of the units is to become a Restaurant and the other is to become a 'Bar'.
- 'The Market Yard Museum' is a new project catering for old photographs of Carrick-on-Shannon, which will be put on display in one of the Community Rooms in 'The Market Yard Centre'. The 'Carrick-on-Shannon Historical Society' decided it would be a nice idea to gather all the photographs of long ago and have them on show in one room. They sought permission from the Board of Management of 'The Market Yard Centre' to use the room and are presently

gathering the photos and props that will be needed to complete this Museum. It should be ready to open later on this year.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS.

- **Erection of new street lighting on Bridge Street to link up with Main Street and the placing of all cables underground.**
- **A complete overhaul of the exterior of the old Town Hall building on Bridge Street. This will involve a power wash of the stone walls, sanding down and cleaning the railings etc. and repainting them. Also removal of rubbish from inside of railings. This will be done in conjunction with Leitrim County Council and Carrick Tidy Towns.**
- **New signage throughout the town. Hopefully our request for Bi-lingual signs will be granted.**
- **To develop the meadow area in the new Town Park development. To encourage the growth of wild flowers and hopefully some wildlife.**

- **On the N4 approach road, starting at the speed limit, plans are being drawn up to revamp the area up to the first roundabout. It is proposed to plant the area on either side of the road with mature trees and therefore create a ‘boulevard effect’ right up to the second roundabout. Footpaths will be put in along both sides of the road and several areas which at present consist only of grass, will be replanted with attractive low maintenance shrubbery and flowers. This will brighten up the approach to the town and will make a feature of a once overgrown neglected patch. This project will be taken on board by Tidy Towns and facilitated by Leitrim County Council. Applications for funding to finance this project are at present being drawn up and will require a percentage of the total cost from Tidy Towns, through sponsorship from local businesses. All going well, this project will be completed within the next two years.**
- **Over the past few years, Carrick-on-Shannon’s Train Station has won many prizes in the ‘Iarnrod Eireann’ Best Station Awards. This year however, due to the restraints of the economic situation, no prizes have been awarded to date. Thanks to the hard work of John Joe and staff, the station is replanted every year with brightly coloured flowers and plants, areas in need of cleaning or painting are taken care of and this in turn keeps the station looking its best. Most of the rubbish bins and platform benches at the station need to be replaced. Carrick Tidy Towns have written to ‘Iarnrod Eireann’ on behalf of Carrick Train Station, requesting that they take a look at the problem and endeavour to rectify it. A lot of hard work goes into keeping the station in good condition and it would be a shame to see it deteriorate because of lack of funding. The Station has recently acquired a new extension to the car parking facilities and also a ramp with security railings which is situated on the left hand side of the main entrance.**

On the left hand side of the N4 by pass, just after the second roundabout, there is a large green hoarding in place at present. After many requests to Leitrim County Council to remove the offending hoarding, we have been told that the construction of a new Water Plant is to commence later in the year. When this project is finished it will give the town a better water system, and as the hoarding will have been removed, it will also take care of the present problem of placing illegal advertising signs in that area.

- The go ahead was given to erect a new footbridge across the River Shannon, beside the existing bridge, earlier this year. This will cater for pedestrians crossing from one side of the town to the other in a safe manner. With the increase in traffic over recent years, crossing the bridge on foot has become more hazardous, as the footpaths on the existing bridge are quite narrow. This new footbridge will be a welcome addition to the town and will also make the two new parks more accessible to one another. Hopefully work on this project will commence shortly.

WHAT'S BEEN COMPLETED IN THE PAST YEAR.

1. Two years on, the Carrick-on-Shannon Riverfront Amenity development is improving all the time. It is a lovely place for a stroll when the weather is fine, or just to sit and relax and watch the cruisers go by. The plants and shrubberies are maturing and they add a nice ambience to the area. Solar lighting for night time has been installed since the opening and also the original refuse bins in the park were replaced with more functional bins. Leitrim County Council looks after the grass cutting and shrubbery and Carrick Tidy Towns keeps the area as litter free as possible.
2. The revamping of footpaths in and around the town to bring it in line with the Disability Act, which has come into force.
3. 'Tearmann' Carrick-on-Shannon's newest amenity park, just across the bridge in Cortober, was officially opened on Monday 20th April 2009. After many years of hard work and perseverance by the Cortober Residents Associations, Roscommon County Council and Waterways Ireland finally agreed to secure funding to revamp the area. It had become a meeting place and dumping ground for teenagers late at night and was a nightmare to keep clean and tidy. On one night alone, Carrick Tidy Towns collected 10 bags full of bottles etc. out of the park. It has been transformed into a lovely tranquil spot where locals and tourists alike can go and relax in the sunshine or look out on to the waters of the Shannon and watch the activities on the river.

- 4.** The roundabout at Tesco and the original one at the Dublin Road are now fully maintained by Bank of America, Tesco, Mr. Gerry Reynolds (developer) and Leitrim County Council. The flowers are replanted two to three times per year and the grass is cut on a regular basis. This leaves Tidy Towns free to maintain and replant the rest of the flower boxes in the town.
- 5.** The newly refurbished St. Georges Church of Ireland, off Main Street, goes from strength to strength. Tour Guides and Receptionists, provide visitors to the Centre with a short film on the History of the Town and then take them on a guided tour around the historical parts of the town. This has proved to be a great success with Tour Operators and visitors alike.
- 6.** The new Library Court development on Park Lane, (opposite the Library) has been completed and is available for letting.
- 7.** The Dock on St. Georges Terrace, continues to flourish. It houses a 100 seat Theatre, an exhibition and performance facility. There are continuous Art Exhibitions, Plays and workshops held in The Dock and it is necessary to book space early to avoid disappointment. The entrance outside the building has been redesigned with the installation of a ramp on the left hand side of the building. This allows easier access to wheelchairs, buggies, visually impaired people etc. Last year they had a beautiful display of red flowers set against the grey stone at the front of the building. They brightened up the whole area and hopefully we will see them again this year.
- 8.** ‘The Courtyard’ situated on lower Main Street, is a beautifully constructed building and is finished to a very high standard. It comprises of a Lounge/Bar serving food daily (street level), a late night Music Bar (upstairs) and a Basement Nightclub (below street level). It also contains 35 one & two bedroom Apartments and 10 high spec Retail Units, some of which are already occupied. Some of the Apartments have been sold and the remainder, are rented out on a weekend basis catering for short stays in the town.
- 9.** The Market Yard Centre, in the heart of the town, continues to hold its Farmers Markets on Thursdays from 10 – 2pm. The Markets have gone from strength to strength providing the local community with fresh fish, meat, vegetables, breads, cakes, cheeses, jams, preserves etc. There have been several articles written about The Farmers Markets in Carrick and the conclusion is that the markets in Carrick are one of the best around. From May to December Craft Markets are held on Saturdays 11- 4pm (weather permitting) providing a large selection of wares for sale. The Centre’s windows and doors have been freshly painted this year and this brightens up the appearance of the yard. Throughout the year, The Market yard Centre would facilitate a number of events. These include The Water Music Festival, Heritage Day, promotion of different events happening throughout the town, Fancy Dress and Halloween party for kids and of course Santa’s Grotto in

December. We also have Community Rooms which are used on a regular basis for different courses such as Spanish Classes, Sewing Classes, Pilates, Guitar Lessons, Drawing Classes as well as community meetings. The staff of The Market Yard Centre work very hard to keep the yard in tip top condition.

10. The new GAA development on the N4 approach road to Carrick is almost completed and is a great asset to the town. It provides the County Team and local clubs with proper facilities in which to play their matches. It also consists of rooms below the stand which can accommodate press conferences, or can be rented out for courses and events. At present a road way is being laid up the middle of the car park and this will lead to better parking facilities when finished. It is hoped to include the car parking area of this development in the planting of trees re: 'the boulevard effect' on the N4 approach Road.
11. Following discussions between the Department of Agriculture, Carrick, Office of Public Works, Sligo and Carrick Tidy Towns, the Government Buildings and surrounding walls (opposite the new Social & Family Affairs building) were freshly painted last year. This has given the building and surrounds a bright and cheerful appearance.
12. Cryans Hotel, the new building, employs approx. 20 full time staff as well as seasonal help. It continues to flourish and has carried over the great food and service that was a trade mark of the old restaurant. It consists of 24 bedrooms (all en-suite), a Restaurant with full A La Carte menu, the bar which serves finger food and a Carvery on Sundays, which has since been extended to other days of the week.
13. St. Mary's Boys National School, Summerhill, have held onto their Green Flag this year. They were awarded it for the first time last year after many years of trying. At present, they recycle 90% of their litter, and have reduced their refuse collection to one black bin and increased their recycling bins to three. They have a depot for recycling batteries and have recently introduced a compost bin. Apart from keeping their school grounds in very good condition, they also keep the area around St. Mary's Hall swept and litter free. They take great pride in keeping their area neat and tidy.
14. The Marist Girls National School on the Dublin Road, have two Green Flags. Their first Green Flag was achieved through a one year litter and waste programme with An Taisce. Last year they started a two year programme aimed at reducing energy and have achieved their second flag for their efforts. They too take great pride in keeping their area clean and tidy.
15. Two years ago, Breffni Community Development Co. Ltd announced its Pilot Composting Project with the launch of its Composting Unit at Breffni Family

Resource Centre, Carrick-on-Shannon. This was the first such facility to be established in County Leitrim. It caters to the needs of fifty local households and accepts composting materials such as grass cuttings, paper and vegetable peelings. There is a once off payment of €5 for the purchase of a bucket to store the household compost material in. Participants of the project can avail of free compost once available. This project was developed with funding made available by Leitrim County Council under the Local Agenda 21, Environment Partnership Fund. They have now moved on to letting of allotments around the facility, to the local people. This is to promote the growth of local vegetables etc. and in the current economic climate can only help matters.

- 16. In its second year, the new Department of Family & Social Affairs building (along the by-pass) has established itself in the community and is at present occupied by 90% of the staff recruited to work there.**

- 17. Our Post Office on St. Georges Terrace, has had its front entrance revamped. A ramp and safety railings have been installed and this makes the Post Office much more accessible to older people, wheelchairs, buggies etc. A welcome addition to the town.**

- 18. The new portable litter bins for trucks and cars, launched last year by Leitrim County Council have been a huge success. These bins are reusable, washable and can be flattened down when not in use for easy storage. They are designed to combat littering around the County and will hopefully be brought on family outings to collect the rubbish of the day and then brought home and disposed of properly. Likewise truck drivers, delivery vans etc. can use them during the day to collect their rubbish and when full, the contents can be emptied into the appropriate bins at work or home.**

- 19. The new Bank of Ireland premises was opened late last year. It is a great improvement on the building previously occupied by the Bank. It is modern and bright and has state of the art facilities. It has a purpose built car park at the rear of the building and from this you can access the road that leads to the Landmark Hotel and the new Amenity Park.**

- 20. At the back and slightly to the left of the Banks car park, the new Carrick Plaza Suites are located. The entrance to the building is situated on the road between the Landmark Hotel and Cryan's Hotel. These are purpose built Comprehensive Hotel Suites, catering to short term or weekend visitors at very competitive rates.**

CARRICK TIDY TOWNS COMMITTEE:

COMMUNICATION AND INVOLVEMENT WITH OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

THURSDAY NIGHT LITTER PICKS:

Every Thursday evening from 7-9pm (weather permitting) Carrick Tidy Towns have a LITTER PICK throughout the centre of the town and on the approach roads leading to it. Some weeks we pick up a fair amount of rubbish, others not as much. This would seem to indicate that notice is being taken of the various flyers we send out and the notes that are put into the local papers each week. We have regular volunteers who come along every week and we have others that can only join us some of the time. Some of the local businesses roster staff members to help out and this is a great help to us. The 'Adopt A Road' scheme introduced a few years ago by Leitrim County Council has had a very positive effect on the litter situation in the town. Individual businesses adopt a certain patch near their premises and undertake to keep it clean and tidy at all times. The Landmark Hotel, The Bush Hotel, Bank of America, The Market Yard Centre, Moon River Passenger Cruiser, Victoria Hall Restaurant and Hartley Residents Association have all taken on the 'Adopt A Road' scheme. When staff are picking up litter on a regular basis, it makes them more aware of the importance of disposing of litter properly and through general conversation with friends and family the word gets around that it is better to bring your rubbish home with you and dispose of it accordingly.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

We have established a good relationship with the County Manager and staff of Leitrim County Council. This results in regular meetings with the various departments to discuss the problems that arise and to participate in the ongoing development of Carrick-on-Shannon. We encourage the community, through local notes in the papers, to let us know if they see something that needs to be sorted. We will then contact the Council Department responsible and see what can be done to rectify the problem. So far this arrangement has worked very well.

A proposal was put to the Parents Association of The Community School at a meeting last year that a student might come on board and join the Tidy Towns Committee as a junior representative. It would hopefully enlighten young people as to the benefits of litter control in their community. The Tidy Towns Committee would very much welcome the presence of a junior member on the committee. To date we have had no response to this proposal.

Between the months of March and October we distribute flyers throughout the community asking all people to keep outside their area clean and tidy. Over the past year, we have noticed an improvement in the litter situation in the town, due in part to constant requests by the Tidy Towns Committee. With so many people having lost their jobs and a lot of them at a loose end, Tidy Towns Committee put up flyers at various locations around the town to ask anyone with an hour or two to spare to join us on Thursday nights for our LITTER PICK (Sample of flyer on opposite page).

Examples of places where flyers were placed:

**The Social Welfare Offices
The Library
The Market Yard Centre
The three Banks in the town
FAS Office
Hotel Foyers
Health Centre
Supermarket Notice Boards
Car Tax Office
The Dock**

Due to cut backs in the budget, Leitrim County Council have told us that they are unable to provide and maintain the flower baskets that they usually put up around the town during May or June every year. This has come as a major blow to the committee, as the baskets add a cheerful bright appearance to the town. In an effort to combat this problem, Tidy Towns has issued a letter to every business in the town, explaining the problem and asking them to provide and maintain their own display of flower baskets, window boxes etc. Hopefully we will have a positive response to this request (Sample of letter enclosed).

Leitrim County Council have provided Carrick Tidy Towns with the key to a secure area in which to place the bags of rubbish that we collect on our Thursday night LITTER PICKS. They also provide us with litter pickers, gloves, hi-vis vests and refuse bags.

The Market Yard Centre and The Bush Hotel are two of the main sponsors of Carrick Tidy Towns. The Market Yard Centre provides most of the Administrative services required throughout the year and The Bush Hotel provides an annual subscription towards the cost of planting flowers and shrubs around the town.

CARRICK *TIDY TOWNS*

WE ARE ASKING ANYONE WITH AN HOUR
OR TWO TO SPARE TO HELP WITH OUR
THURSDAY EVENING LITTER PICK IN AND
AROUND THE TOWN.

WE MEET AT THE BUS STOP ON THE N4.

(Between Coffey's and Brady's)

7pm. to 9pm.

Contact Mary at 086 – 37 60 905 or 071 – 9650816

IT'S YOUR TOWN TOO

POINTS TO NOTE IN RELATION TO WASTE AND RECYCLING.

■ 'Kelly's Centra' and 'Glancys Supervalu' have balers which they use to bale all their cardboard which is then collected for recycling.

■ The Bush Hotel has acquired a baler for recycling. This allows them to condense their recycleable material and cut down on the amount of collections needed.

■ A lot of businesses use shredders for disposing of their waste paper. This reduces the bulk and enables the recycling bins to take a bigger load in one collection and therefore cuts down on the Carbon Footprint.

■ Tesco's clothes, bottle, cans etc. Bring Bank Centre, located at the right hand side of the building, provides the opportunity to recycle a lot of rubbish which might otherwise go into the ordinary refuse collection.

■ Leitrim County Council's Bing Bank Centre, located on Park Lane (opposite the Library), provides another facility for recycling. Carrick Tidy Towns and Council staff, keep an eye on this area and inform the Council if the bins need to be emptied or the area cleaned up. The installation of a CCTV Camera in the Centre a couple of years ago helps to monitor the facility and discourages the dumping of ordinary rubbish.

■ The Market Yard Centre continues to have a 2 weekly recycling collection. They also have a cardboard collection every week.

■ Carrick Tidy Towns have asked the Council to place recycling bins at the new Marina to facilitate the recycling of waste from the Cruisers docking there. They have agreed to grant this request during high season.

Below: Sample of Tidy Towns Notes sent into papers each week.

ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

THE BUSH HOTEL CARRICK-ON-SHANNON CO. LEITRIM

THE FIRST IN IRELAND TO BE AWARDED
THE EUROPEAN UNION ECO LABEL
(THE FLOWER)

The following is a detailed insight into the environmental awareness policy operated by The Bush Hotel. It has recently been published in booklet form and is distributed to all guests in the Hotel.