

SUMMER *people*

..... Tarmonbarry

Making plans for Tarmonbarry!

In 2005 the Secretary of Tarmonbarry Development & Tidy Towns Association Cllr. Tom Crosby, along with the committee members, introduced a five-year Plan of work for the village and surrounding areas which included major landscaping works on the Strokestown and Longford approach roads involving the cultivating and placing of new topsoil for over a half a mile out from the village on both approach roads.

The approach roads were then reseeded and landscaped to create a lawn effect. The committee then planted a variety of trees, a number of which were semi-mature and sourced locally. Also planted were shrub and flower beds throughout as well as new hedgerows on both approach roads, all of which are now a various stages of matur-

SUMMER *people* TARMONBARRY

Roscommon people
Supporting local communities

Reports: Ashling Flanagan
Photographs: Andrew Fox

ing – giving a spectacular display on the approaches to the village which is on the very busy national primary route to and from the West of Ireland.

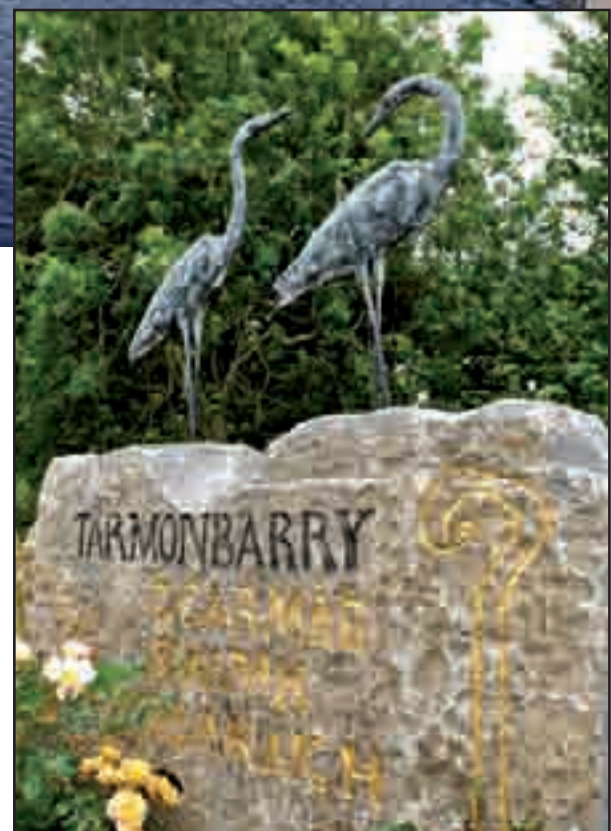
The five-year plan also included the restoration of Our Lady's Grotto in the village centre which was designed by the renowned sculptor Michael Casey from Newtowncashel in Co. Longford, using local limestone rock sourced from

the Weir on the River Shannon in the village and the creation of a Waterfall through the large limestone rocks together with sculptured Heron Birds created from local Bog Oak. This is now recognised as an excellent work of art to be enjoyed by locals, tourists and the many people who stop off in the village to take photographs of this beautiful feature.

The plan also included the

restoration of a River Bank Walk which was redundant and overgrown for over sixty years. Back then it was the main access route connecting the village of Lack for the two-mile journey along the River Bank to the village of Tarmonbarry. Most of this river bank walk is now fully restored and provides a very scenic walk and lovely amenity which includes a newly-created picnic area with seating facing the river.

The committee working with their secretary, Cllr. Crosby, have also had a number of prospective improvements proposed in the plan which relate to the infrastructure in the village. These include a new surface through the village, the introduction of extra public Lighting with a decorative theme, undergrounding of ESB



and Telecom cables, extra footpath, etc.

The five-year plan was completed at the end of last year and a new three-year plan was commissioned by the committee which involves a number of projects including the research of all Wildlife, Flower and Fauna in the area which is presently underway, under the supervision of the National Parks and Wildlife Service and includes the local National Schools Whitehall and Clonfour and local people who have an interest in promoting this valuable resource from an educational and tourism project for the area. The results of this project when completed will go on to display boards at different locations and include a Wildlife Nature Walk for the area.

The new plan also proposes a number of other improvements to further enhance the amenities in the Village and continue to promote Tarmonbarry and its surrounding areas as one of the top tourist resorts in the region, in turn will continue to create much needed employment in the local shops, business, restaurants and bars.

Projects in the plan include the provision of seating at different locations in the village, im-

proving the Ballytoohy/Roskey approach road, improving the landscaping, tree and shrub planting (which has already commenced), a new surface and drainage to the road, new footpaths and extending the public lighting system on the Ballytoohy Road. It is also part of the plan over the three-year period to further enhance the Harbour area with the provision of a recreational area and a playground, etc.

The Tidy Towns Committee would like to pay special compliments to the FAS and Rural Social workers who have worked so diligently with the committee over the years which has resulted in major increases in the markings in the National Tidy Towns Competition with Tarmonbarry receiving awards for the best improved markings at county level and in the past winning a regional award in the competition.

The committee would also like to thank all those who participated in the Environmental Green Homes Programme which was organised through the Environmental section of Roscommon County Council and the National Heritage Organisation An Taisce, where the village won an award.

