

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **PORTUMNA**
County : **GALWAY**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 17-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14
Landscaping	40	28
The Built Environment	40	28
Litter Control	40	28
Tidiness	20	13
Residential Areas	30	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	300	196

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Many thanks for the submission and the letter from Cllr. Willie Burke. We would advise that a longer term and more comprehensive development plan be produced between the community, the local authority, FÁS and other interested parties such as the OPW. This would provide a vision of Portumna and a detailed programme of work for the coming years.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Portumna has much potential both in terms of Lough Derg and the woodland amenity area. A good starting point would be to seek the assistance of your local environmental experts to maximise potential, identify habitats and give appropriate advice for planning work programmes.

LANDSCAPING

The green areas at the Castle, Tourist Information Office, the marina route and the swimming area are well presented and maintained. Try to maximise the potential for tree and shrub planting as this presents a good impression of the town. Your programme of encouraging hanging baskets has been most successful on St. Brendans Street, Clonfert Avenue and Patricks Street. Other areas should follow the example.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Castle development will be a major attraction when completed. In addition, the churches are well presented as are many of the commercial premises. The Cornloft, OMearas, Clonwyns Bar, Londis Supermarket, The Maple, Curleys, Mickey Joes, Connollys and the ESB shop are just a few examples. As always, encourage the use of traditional shop-fronts and discourage plastic signs and notices in windows, etc. The GAA park was well presented but it is unfortunate that the Park Hotel is closed and so untidy. Industrial areas such as Quiltman and Traceys could be improved upon with tree planting to hide yards, etc. The schools are generally tidy, save for the smaller primary school opposite the community school.

LITTER CONTROL

In general there was good litter control although the bin at the toilets by the swimming area was overflowing and litter was spread over the area. The skip at the marina was also overflowing and in need of removal.

TIDINESS

Portumna is a relatively large town with a lot of traffic which detracts from the tidy appearance of the town. The use of flower baskets, boxes and generous landscaping will help improve the overall appearance.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

We were most impressed with areas like Shannon Park and Marian Park where residents obviously take great pride in their gardens and open green areas. You are to be commended for winning such support. You might encourage more improvements through garden competitions and direct approaches where necessary.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

In general, the approach roads are well maintained. Improvements could be made by removing growth from the stone walls and repairing walls where necessary. In addition, further tree and shrub planting

would be welcome. The wide streets are good for traffic flow and the sylvan route to the swimming area was tidy save for some repairs required to seating along the way. Some care is required for weed control around gates and pillars.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Portumna is making great strides in this competition and has much potential given the many attractions and amenities available. A more comprehensive plan would be helpful. We wish you continued success.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (02/08/96)

There was very little litter on adjudication day . Otherwise the second adjudicator was in agreement with the comments of the first. It was good to see what looks like some smart new shops nearing completion on Clonfert Road. For future planning: the road to the Marina is due for repair and at this time it may be sensible to install speed ramps as the road is used by large numbers of pedestrians and there is no pathway.