

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **PORTARLINGTON**
County : **LAOIS**
Category : **D**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 15-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14
Landscaping	40	21
The Built Environment	40	19
Litter Control	40	23
Tidiness	20	12
Residential Areas	30	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27
General Impression	10	5
TOTAL MARK	300	165

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

In spite of some pessimism expressed in the answers to the questionnaire, local support seems to be quite good. Co-operative work with the official bodies appears to be positive, and the FAS scheme should be very helpful. Plans for the future are imaginative and enterprising. While it may seem to the Tidy Towns Association that developments initiated by members take a long time to mature, their mark is already being made. It is many years since this adjudicator visited Portarlinton, but improvements in certain areas were very obvious. On your map for next year, please mark the locations of any projects, planting, etc., completed or in progress over the previous twelve month period; and please name the streets.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

A nominal mark is being given to committees which have not yet undertaken projects under this new heading. There are plenty of opportunities for signposted walks - such as along the canal from Brackhall Bridge, etc.

LANDSCAPING

Municipal shrubberies and beds as part of the streetscape are in short supply, but the beds in the Park were admired. The grassed area across the river extending to the Swimming Pool was attractive. Landscaping was favourably noted in a side road near the Railway Station. Tree-planting in at least three locations was very favourably noted.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The most important building in Portarlinton is the Court/Market House; the committee must be wary of adverse comments especially as they have no control, but the fact is that because of its prominent position, the poor presentation of this handsome building (erected for the benefit of the townspeople!) affects the whole square. The churches are well maintained, and the distinguished Railway Station (McNeill) is especially well cared for - this adjudicator will suggest an award for stations for next year. Several shopfronts referred to by last year's adjudicator are very well presented; those mentioned by the Association for inclusion in the national competition were photographed, but did not seem to have the unique qualities of design and craftsmanship to qualify for the award. The Odlum factory was well presented, but the exterior of the McMahon factory was less tidy.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter was seen in several places on adjudication day, particularly in the Square, Main Street and Station Road.

TIDINESS

Kerbside weed, and weeds in fencing, were seen in many places. There are still a lot of mass-produced projecting signs on premises; removal of poles and wirescapes are an issue which clearly could not be a priority here yet.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Older street houses are generally well kept, and many have interesting colour schemes, avoiding the greyness which used to be such a dull feature. Well-kept terraces with front gardens often need their boundary walls or railings freshened up with paint. There are some fine private homes with good gardens - some indeed near the Railway Station, a general area where the neat alternates with the untidy. The large estates on either side of the Tullamore road were looking well on adjudication day, while Church

View was a model of what a well kept suburban estate should be like.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Surfaces and paving are reasonably good, except in some areas such as near the Railway Station. The relief road (new to this adjudicator) is an immense improvement to traffic circulation; when new planting matures it will look extremely well; unfortunately some unsightly 'backs' have been revealed. The rehabilitation of Blackhall Bridge seems to be well outside the town area, but it is a worthy project and its completion will be eagerly awaited.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A handsome town, full of vitality and interest, gradually taking stock of its various components, and improving them.