

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **PORTROE**
County : **TIPPERARY NORTH**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 01-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14
Landscaping	40	27
The Built Environment	40	28
Litter Control	40	28
Tidiness	20	12
Residential Areas	30	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	300	188

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The new adjudication criteria will expect Tidy Town Committees to draft a 3-5 year development plan and annual work programme over the same period which will be an integral part of their entry to the Competition. Although this is not effective until 1997, the adjudicator would have expected some more information in this regard than was supplied with your entry form for 1996. However, having referred to the information which your Committee Secretary submitted for 1995, it does appear that the work which you have undertaken in the meantime has improved the overall impression and the village is progressing in its ranking in the competition. The proposed development plan and work programme should assist in setting realistic objectives and achievable targets which may help to involve all of the community and improve your position in the competition even more. Assistance in formulating these plans can be sought from your Local Authority, FAS or Shannon Development.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES.

The proximity to Lough Derg and the lakeshore at Garrykennedy and Castle Lough is the principal resource available to the village in this section of the competition. Although these are signposted from the village perhaps consideration could be given to erecting appropriate display maps to highlight these natural amenities. There is potential for greater nature conservation in the village. A good starting point would be to identify the wildlife habitats of your catchment area and see what species of animals, birds and wildlife that these attract and this information could be part of what could be included on your display maps and should be of interest to visitors to the area.

LANDSCAPING

The adjudicator noted the high level of maintenance of grassed areas on both main approach roads and throughout the village, particularly, in the area of the housing estate beside the GAA grounds. Recent tree planting and existing mature trees together with the use of flowers and shrubs in beds, flower baskets and planters greatly enhance the appearance of the village. Stone walls, footpaths and hedgerows generally are well maintained. The Killoran ICA project in the centre of the village is to be commended.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Public and commercial premises throughout the village are reasonably well presented. Notably amongst these are the National School, the Garda Station and the Parish Church and grounds and the latter is very well maintained and presented. The Texaco Station and Store is nicely presented with good use of colour; the two public houses are reasonably presented although the old petrol pumps in front of Brennans could be removed. Shouldice and Sons store and Post Office, as mentioned in last years report, could be improved. The Village Hall and its surrounds looked neat and tidy and the adjudicator noted the old Portroe National School (1875) now a private residence. The presentation of the Health Centre could be improved. The treatment of the derelict property mentioned in your report does, at least, improve the appearance of same.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control appeared to be generally good throughout the village, both in the vicinity of business premises and residential areas. The only exception was some litter and rubbish around the grassed areas and signposting at the crossroads, particularly a little further down the road towards Tubex Ltd.

TIDINESS

The village generally gave an overall impression of being neat and tidy. This was particularly

emphasised on the Nenagh road where the grass margins were maintained for some considerable distance outside the village sign and the treatment of the area in front of the estate of houses referred to above. Also, the very neatly landscaped area opposite the Texaco Service station contributed to the good impression.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Individual houses throughout the village are by and large nicely presented and collectively the houses in the residential area beside the GAA grounds have made a significant contribution to the overall appearance of the village.

ROADS STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The two major approach roads from Ballina and Nenagh are, as already referred to, well maintained. The other minor approach roads to the lakeshore could be improved, although, as minor country roads these need not be over treated.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The village itself has improved somewhat from the previous year. From a visitors point of view, the villages linkage with the lakeshore area and the facilities which have been developed at places like Castle Lough and Garrykennedy should be more obvious and perhaps the display maps suggested above might be one way of emphasising these.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (14/08/96)

While much of the village was presented to a high standard, the general impression was one of inconsistency. Weedy kerbsides were a problem in places. There are still some expansive yards which will need to be upgraded in the not too distant future. The grassed areas were, for the most part, well mown. Many items of street furniture need attention. Fresh white paint glistening in the sun light was most effective and fortunately did tend to draw one's eye away from shabby buildings. The derelict petrol pumps should be removed. The general vicinity of the GAA entrance has been improved but the ragged fence looked poor; perhaps a row of trees might be planted. Also in this area, there was some litter on the green and one vandalised tree. There is clearly great interest in planting since most of the village was well adorned. We look forward to receiving your three/five year work programme next year.