

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **PORTLAW**
County : **WATERFORD**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 12-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	21
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16
Landscaping	40	25
The Built Environment	40	26
Litter Control	40	16
Tidiness	20	14
Residential Areas	30	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26
General Impression	10	4
TOTAL MARK	300	164

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Portlaw has responded well to the new emphasis in the Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for the completed entry form incorporating the useful map of the centre. It was most helpful on the day of adjudication.

The Committee have succeeded in getting a good response from the local Community and we commend their imaginative sponsorship drive - the ladder climb by the Fire Brigade. You are wished success with your application to FAS for a Student to assist you in your endeavours.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The development of wildlife habitats is now seen as a central part of the Competition. The Committee might, having consulted with local members of the Irish Wildlife Conservancy, explore the options provided by the River Clodagh and other appropriate habitats.

Pearse Park was very well presented and the trees are maturing pleasantly. The Grotto featured very suitable wild flowers and shrubs. The small carpark opposite the Convent was disfigured somewhat by broken timber fencing.

LANDSCAPING

The almost unique layout of the town deserves to be accentuated in every way possible. The central square with its radiating streets is a most imposing lay-out. The flower beds at the start of the Waterford road are, unhappily, overgrown and this fine planted area should receive enhanced treatment. The tree planting on the Waterford road although limited was looking well. Flowerbeds at the Main Street/Bridge Street corner were well presented. The fine cobbled work at the Square is commendable. The mural at Queen Street will soon need attention.

The new emphasis in the Competition is on more natural planting. Where possible, ground planting is to be preferred to tub planting. Where tubs are utilised, very fulsome planting is needed for best effect. The grassed areas are very well maintained here with splendid rose bushes. The Carrick-on-Suir road is a delight with very fine planting and well presented grassed areas. The entrance area to the old factory itself, because it is visually so significant, would benefit from enhanced maintenance by the Committee.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

It is the very imposing lay-out of the streetscapes - rather than any individual buildings - that are of such significance in Portlaw. The Catholic Church is a very fine building approached by tall and graceful walls. The Abbey Rubber Moulding Company was well painted and well presented. The small Garda Station also caught the eye. The Community Centre building itself was well presented but some weeds have broken through the concrete surround. The Fire Station also looked well but weed and grass growth needs to be watched here also. The Convent and Convent Church were a delight as were Nos. 60-61 on Browne Street. The Clodagh Bar featured splendid hanging baskets while the Portlaw-Ballyduff Credit Union building maintained its usual high standard. The Church of Ireland building was very well presented with well maintained grass.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter continues as a sizable problem throughout the centre. It is especially disappointing to record the amounts of litter on the Dungarvan road where it detracts materially from the splendid high walled entrance to the centre. Some litter was also noted at the Forge Inn which again detracted from this very fine building. The approach areas to both churches had to endure their supply of disfiguring litter. The problem with litter is both universal and it seems everlasting. Perhaps individual groups from the

immediate locality could be persuaded to participate in a weekly anti-litter drive, hopefully, also encouraging the reduction of incidents of litter in the first place.

TIDINESS

Portlaw generally is free of major difficulties under this heading. The approach from the Square - very much the visual focal point of the town - is an imposing avenue but, as mentioned above, attention is directed to the entrance gates of the former Tannery. There is a tendency to permit excessive grass and weed growth in some locations through the centre although, largely, grassed areas have been well presented.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The Beechwood Grove estate has slipped back a little on its standards of previous years, No. 9 has maintained an excellent standard. There is a need for communal planting and joint action by the residents is recommended. The 4 house terrace at the Waterford road junction display varying standards; one in particular was a delight with good floral displays and well painted. William Street continues to make a bold effort and the imposing Alms House looked very well with good flower baskets and small flower beds in this area sponsored by the Lower William Street Residents. Pride of place must go to the Carrick-on-Suir approach road residents who have maintained consistently a very fine display with well painted houses, attractive grassed areas and an absence of litter. The garden and house at the corner of Talbot Terrace is singled out for special commendation as are, the many fine displays on Queen Street.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Standards varied on the approaches to Portlaw. The Carrick-on-Suir road was very well presented. Quite an amount of spoil was, unhappily, noted on the Curraghmore road with weeds at the base of the wall.

The seven sign cluster at Queen Street/Browne Street corner needs cleaning, while the sign cluster at the Bunmahon road would benefit from the sign pole being repainted. Bunmahon road seemed to be missing a town nameplate. In general, on the Rathcormack and Bunmahon roads there was disappointing extent of spoil, weeds and rough grass requiring attention.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Portlaw has a most interesting lay-out and many fine attributes which, with a committed Tidy Towns Committee if supported by the Community at large, can be developed to be a powerful and worthwhile agent for the long-term improvement of Portlaw.