

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 02-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	30
The Built Environment	40	29	28
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	14
Litter Control	40	29	28
Tidiness	20	14	13
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	27
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	208	196

Portumna, Co. Galway

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your detailed entry form, up to date report on recent works and details of the comprehensive proposals to be undertaken under the various headings. Your efforts to date are to be commended. We would recommend that all of the above proposals, be combined into a very simple Five Year Plan which sets yearly goals. The Plan can be modified as circumstances dictate. It will help to further co-ordinate and focus the efforts of all the community and give them a sense of involvement. While the various proposals you have identified are noted, this report will be based on what is in evidence on the day of adjudication.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Encourage the use of traditional shop-fronts and recommend to commercial properties with plastic signs to replace same. Many of the commercial buildings look well these include the Shannon Oaks Hotel and grounds, Texaco Station, Curley's, Mickey Joe's, Clonwyn's, Londis, Hayes & Hayes, Irish Permanent, The Maple and The Cornloft. All that is required of some of the other premises is a little colour, a bit of paint and the use of flowers baskets or boxes. The removal of overhead wires will assist the appearance of the streetscape of Portumna. Both Churches, the Grotto, Square paving and planting all looked well. The Industrial premises should make more of an effort with additional planting and screening of side areas. The facilities at the Marina were well maintained and looked well. The Library requires painting and the Garda Station looks neglected. St Mary's Centre and the National school could be improved. The other schools looked well.

LANDSCAPING

The landscaping and planting programme submitted is impressive and we are sure you are updating and reviewing progress based on this. This would appear to have provided a basis for your landscaping programme to date. Perhaps in your overall plan the various elements of this programme could be included and yearly targets set. The various community flower and shrub beds throughout the town were colourful and looked well.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

We look forward to seeing the completion of the ongoing work in the area of wildlife and natural amenities at the Forest Park. Portumna is lucky to have such fine wildlife habitats and natural amenities at its door. The placing of information and interpretative panels at suitable locations will greatly assist the visitor and local resident in seeking out the various amenities and habitats. Access for the disabled is important at all the amenities and not just at the proposed playground.

LITTER CONTROL

Portumna maintains a good control on litter and only small

amounts were to be seen on the Main Street. However it is important that it is constantly watched. The skip at the Marina was screened and tidy.

TIDINESS

The general appearance of the Town is helped by the use of flower boxes and hanging baskets. Residents should be encouraged to add colour to their property and participate in your efforts. Portumna is a busy commercial town and with an influx of visitors looks very congested and takes from the tidy appearance. Perhaps a review of car parking should take place to try and alleviate some of the pressure on the centre of the town. A constant watch on litter and weeds is important to maintain an overall appearance of tidiness. Commercial property owners should refrain from cluttering footpaths in front of their premises with stands, goods, billboards, they restrict access on the pavement, especially for the disabled.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The majority of residents are making an effort. Shannon Park Estate was tidy with the open area and flower beds attended to. Marian Park looked very well with colourful planting and trees in gardens and the open green space. The gravel mounds should be removed from the entrance area to the playing pitch and perhaps the existing colour of the entrance gates should be reviewed.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The swimming and amenity area at Lough Derg was well maintained and looked well. The development proposals for this area are noted. The approach roads and the old stone walls looked very well. Tidying up the road verges and behind the stone walls was ongoing on adjudication day. Generally the approach roads to Portumna are well maintained and looked well. The tree planting, shrubs and colourful flower beds on these roads enhance the entry to the Town. It is important that road verges are kept cut back, weed control and repairs to old stone walls are carried out regularly. Side roads must be watched especially with tall grass growing up behind existing stone walls. Many of the side street residents are making an effort with colourful planting and painting, their houses look very well. The remaining residents on these streets and roads should be encouraged to do likewise as it improved the overall streetscape appearance of the town. A general bilingual street signage scheme should be considered for the town.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Portumna is progressing well in the Competition. It is important that you keep focused on what has been achieved and ensure no regression occurs. Plan ahead, move forward and carry out further improvements. It is not easy and involves hard work, commitment and time. Good luck with your endeavours and keep up the good work.