

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 10-07-97

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 1997 | Mark Awarded 1996 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 22 | 21 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 27 | 26 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 25 | 25 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 16 | 16 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 16 | 16 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 13 | 14 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 17 | 16 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 25 | 26 |
| General Impression | 10 | 4 | 4 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 165 | 164 |

Portlaw, Co. Waterford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your well filled in application form. The Committee must be commended for their success in fund-raising. In future years a more structured phased Development Plan would be an advantage and this of itself would possibly lead to getting further help from public bodies. Portlaw, is a 19th century industrial town which was planned and built as a unit. It was a pioneer model village, built by the Quaker Malcolmsons for the workers of their cotton spinning mills in 1825. Therefore in the Overall Developmental Approach cognisance should be taken of this historical fact and also of the later development of leather tanneries. The plan to refurbish the Square and surrounding areas is excellent. The need to provide cohesion and a centre to the town is important. Portlaw is such a unique town and has such tremendous possibilities that any effort to enhance it must be applauded. Portlaw has the enviable advantage that anything that is done will be on excellent foundations. The Committee is wished every success with any work that they are undertaking.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Portlaw is quite different from the usual Irish town in that all its streets radiate from a central square. The main emphasis in the past was on industry and housing, a feature which is still quite evident, as there appears to be little shopping facilities or a strong centre. The parish Church, in Pugin style, built in 1859, is extremely fine. The Convent and Convent Church are well presented. The new Library is most attractive and shows how contemporary architecture integrates within the town so well. The wire-scapes detract unbelievably and this is further emphasised as the views out from these streets are really fine. One of the priority tasks for the Committee should be to Liaise with the County Council and the ESB so that the wires can be put underground. The fountain in the Square is not adequately featured. There are no names on any of the streets which is a great pity. The Local Authority should be approached for help in this. Portlaw is such an interesting and unusual town that there should be plaques explaining some of its more salient features.

LANDSCAPING

It is very good that some tree planting is on going. With future planting thought should be given to the variety of trees planted. Some with variegated leaves are not the best choice as even though they give quick effect, they create quite a discordant note when viewed in conjunction with the surrounding countryside. Open grassed areas, particularly that on Carrick Road, flower beds, window boxes and planters all add a sense of colour which could be repeated with advantage.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The Committee is urged to examine the opportunities for the better

preservation of natural and wildlife habitats. Further information on the Canal Banks would be appreciated.

LITTER CONTROL

The efforts towards litter control are bearing fruit but it is necessary to continue vigilance.

TIDINESS

Within the residential areas it is mostly tidy. But the perimeter and the approaches would benefit from more attention. The Square had an air of untidiness with rubbish and litter thrown around. Many kerbs are neglected.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Residential areas look well, most houses are well painted and attractive. Additional window boxes could be considered. Some houses, such as the Alms houses are very interesting.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads to Portlaw are quite satisfactory but the lack of road signage is a pity. On the finger sign at the turn off from the Carrick-on-Suir /Clonmel Road, there was no mention of Portlaw. Neither was there a village entry sign.

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.