

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 23-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	22	22
The Built Environment	40	28	27
Landscaping	40	26	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	16	16
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	18	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	5	4
TOTAL MARK	300	169	165

Portlaw, County Waterford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your entry form and detailed map which was most helpful to the adjudicator. All Tidy Towns committees are now required to produce a plan which will guide their Tidy Towns activities. This should be a simple 3 to 5 page document and should cover a period of 3 to 5 years. Your objectives for each year should be set out clearly in this plan. Do not adopt unrealistic objectives. A limited number which are achievable each year is far more likely to yield results. Do remember to keep the plan short and simple - look on it as a guide for your Committee and as something which can be built on over the years. It is important to liaise with the Local Authority, FAS, your local Tourism Officer, the ESB, Telecom Eireann and the National Rehabilitation Board all who will have valuable advice to give you in preparing your plan. The adjudicator would suggest that you recruit more people onto your Committee as eight persons is a very small number and more people will help to spread the workload for you. It is not satisfactory that just a few people in your Community should be doing all the work. Do involve the schools and their students in your activities. Perhaps the local clubs, which might include, the soccer club, GAA club, rugby club, etc would be only too glad to help out with your activities.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Portlaw is indeed a unique town as explained in your application form. It does have a lot of streets and approach roads. The old factory entrance needs attention. There are very fine gates there which need repair and painting. Again the Lodge inside the gate needs repairs. The town is also unique in that it is mainly residential with very few shops. The pubs in the town are well maintained including Flynn's which had a very nice red and yellow colour scheme. The Credit Union and the Fire Station were well maintained. I would suggest that flowers or window boxes would give a lift to the Credit Union building. The National School and the Church are well maintained. The Library, which is a nice new building, does need redecoration at this stage. Parts of the Enterprise Centre needs painting especially at the front and also the back on the Talbot Terrace side. The Grotto continues to be maintained very well and had a nice selection of shrubs and plants. The Fountain is a lovely feature and more should be made of it, (it was not working on the day of adjudication). It would need to be cleaned and perhaps advice should be sought on the most suitable form of landscaping for it. For the Community Centre perhaps some suitable shrubs and trees could be planted in the grounds.

LANDSCAPING

The Carrick road area was beautifully kept and had some lovely roses and plants which were evident. Grass was cut and everything looked neat and tidy in that area. The grass around the Fountain needed a cut. Do seek advice about perhaps doing some suitable planting for this area. The grass needed cutting at the open space at the junction of Browne Street and Queen Street. The trees are maturing very nicely on the left hand side going towards the factory gate, although the grass again needed cutting here. On the road towards Waterford from the town, the trees in this area are maturing very well and the grass is cut which looked very neat and tidy. The area around the factory gate lodge does need attention - it is overgrown.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The River Clodagh is an ideal area to develop a wildlife habitat. A good starting point would be to identify the wildlife habitats in that area and see what species of fish, birds and animals it attracts. You will be delighted at discovering the number and extent of these habitats. Perhaps the banks could be cleaned and tidied up which would increase the wildlife habitat in that area. If you need help in identifying local wildlife habitats or getting projects off the ground, do invite your local environmental expert to get involved and provide you with the advice you will require. No doubt there is such a person living in your area. Additional guidance is available in the Conservation Volunteers of Ireland leaflet.

LITTER CONTROL

It is important to have and maintain a clean outdoor environment. Your litter control is reasonably good but still more vigilance is required. Litter was observed in Browne Street, in the car park across the road from the Church, some pieces around the Fountain and on Main Street. I would suggest that you contact the Local Authority to discuss anti-litter initiatives in your area. Perhaps you might consider the promotion of anti-litter awareness with the community as a whole, the provision of more litter bins in the right place and regular clean-up campaigns to tackle the 'black spots'. Do involve the schools in your area who will be only too delighted to lend a helping hand.

TIDINESS

Very little fly-posting and graffiti was noted. The control of weed growth at kerbs and at the base of walls does need to be tackled. Perhaps the individual property owners on a co-ordinated basis organised by the local committees would look after this task outside their own houses and boundary walls.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Overall the residential areas are quite good and an effort is being made by the residents. Do keep up the good work, continue to improve and make your properties more attractive looking. A

good effort is being made by the residents of Talbot Terrace. Do keep this up. Residences on the Carrick road looked very well and in particular the house which was painted in a wine and pink colour scheme. Other properties were well presented but do trim the long grass in front of the boundary walls. The streets are mainly residential - perhaps the Tidy Towns Committee would be able to talk to a colour consultant which would help enormously in devising a colour scheme for the residential houses of the town. Some of the streets look dull and would need to be brightened up. Perhaps this could be improved by the use of window boxes and planters, etc. It is also noted that some houses remain unoccupied and perhaps when these have been sold improvements will be done by the new owners. The residences in Georges Street were good and had some nice gardens. Some of the houses will need freshening up in the years ahead.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Overall the approach roads into Portlaw are reasonably well maintained. The walls on the Carrick road looked very well. Almost all the signs on the approach roads and junctions in the town need cleaning and painting. Open spaces do need to be tidied up. Also gates to fields and open spaces need attention. There does not appear to be any nameplates on the streets - do discuss this with your Local Authority so that perhaps for next year these could be put in place. It would be important that the names would be bilingual where appropriate. The Council Yard was untidy and does need attention.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

With such a small Committee to cover a large area you are doing an extremely good job. Portlaw has great potential to do well in this Competition. However, as already pointed out, you need more persons to help out your small band of Committee members. When you have additional help each task will become easier to improve on and complete. Do keep up the good work!