

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 22-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	35
The Built Environment	40	29	30
Landscaping	40	31	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	30	30
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	30
General Impression	10	8	7
TOTAL MARK	300	216	217

Portumna, County Galway

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The working group have had a particularly difficult year due to the major road works in progress the entire length of the town. Never the less, there is evidence of considerable effort in the face of this adversity and the working group are to be commended for their continuing work. It is hoped that the completion of the pipe laying scheme will repay your enthusiasm to complete your five year development plan.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Brendan Street and Clonfert Avenue in particular are badly affected by road works which has temporarily impacted on the built environment. Never the less, the town still has a busy commercial life well reflected in its many small but colourful shop fronts. There are a number of well featured buildings including the Georgian residence beside the EBS premises, the community hall, both churches, and the Shannon Oaks Hotel. It is a little discouraging to see the growing use of plastic surfaces in window and door replacements. While in many ways seen as more practical and probably economic it devalues the character of a number of otherwise delightful frontages. Portumna Castle is a marvellous treasure for Portumna and continues to be well presented and maintained. There are some examples of delapidated or vacant houses where upkeep has been difficult to maintain.

LANDSCAPING

Some attractive examples of landscaping were on display. The flower beds at the junction of Dominick Street and Clonfert Avenue along with trimmed verges gave a cheerful welcome to visitors to the town. The landscaped entrance to Shannon Park is nicely presented. It was a pity to notice that the flower barrels at the entrance to the car park were in a sorry state but this may have been due to road works going on in the immediate vicinity. Trees screening the fire station, library and residential terrace along Barrick Road are very effective. The whole area within the Forest Park amenity from gates to waterside are beautifully landscaped with good road surfaces, well kept lawns and modern yet unobtrusive public lighting.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

There are few places to compare to the wildlife and natural amenities in and around Portumna. From the watersports area to the marina and forest park is an outstanding and accessible facility well presented for public enjoyment while maintaining the natural habitat.

LITTER CONTROL

The litter control programme is working well and in general terms the town could be described as virtually litter free. In addition, there is evidence of recycling facilities near the library.

TIDINESS

There are some difficulties here. Some evidence of weed in built up areas, and projecting signs and wirescapes still damage overall impression. Both church grounds were very well maintained. The community hall needs painting and a window requires repair.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Generally, the residential areas Abbey Street, Dominick Street, Shannon Park and Barrick Road were all well presented. There were some examples of dereliction and gutter and chimney grass. In one location graffiti spoiled an otherwise entertaining walk through the town's residential districts. Some effort was made in display of window and footpath flower boxes.

ROADS, STREETS, AND BACK AREAS

On going road works create short term difficulties for Portumna. Beyond that more attention will be required to the access roads to the town, particularly from the east. The semi industrial nature of this district requires particular attention. Within the town environs, attention needs to be given to some access gateways. The car parks are well presented. Broken footpaths need repairs.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Overall, Portumna has kept a lot going in its tidy town endeavours under very adverse conditions. The town clearly identifies with the tourism industry and as such will realise its potential when its infrastructural services are completed.