

*"Caring for our environment"*

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

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 22-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	22	22
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	27	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	15	16
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	5	5
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>169</b>

## **Portlaw, County Waterford**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you indeed for your entry form and map which was very helpful to the adjudicator. You received an in-depth report last year and the following should be read in the context of that report and by way on comment of progress made during the year. You indicate that you have good will and financial support from the community which is most welcome. Again as last year your numbers on the Committee remain the same. You do have a large area to look after and again I would suggest that you recruit more people on to your Committee. The workload does need to be spread throughout the whole community. It is good to see that you involve young people which includes the schools and the Forogie Youth Club. Their interest and energy can be harnessed successfully and it is good to see their involvement in this Competition. You do seriously need to look at the provision of a plan which will guide your Tidy Towns activities for the next 3 to 5 years. It should not be elaborate but a very simple plan. Much of the expertise needed will be found in your own Committee and much of the further advice that you might need will be available in the wider-community. It is good to see that you co-operate with the Local Authority. Other agencies who would have advice to give you would be FÁS, Regional Tourism Authority, ESB, Telecom Eireann and the National Rehabilitation Board. Look on this plan as a guide for your Committee and as something which can be built on over the years.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Many of the problems referred to in last years report are still with you. The old factory entrance badly needs attention as do the gates which need repairs and painting. The Lodge inside the gate does need considerable work done to it and could be an outstanding feature but unfortunately is now an eyesore. The pubs in the town continue to be well maintained including Flynn's and the one on the Carrick-on-Suir road which did not appear to have a name on it as yet. The Credit Union, Garda Station and Fire Station continue to be maintained in good condition. The Library does need to be repainted and hopefully this will be taken onboard for next year. The Grotto looked well but did need weeding done to it. Also the open green space on either side of the Grotto was overgrown. The National School was presented very well as were the Churches and graveyard. Parts of the Enterprise Centre need to be painted at the gable end and also at the back. Its front area is nicely presented. The Community Centre building was

clean and tidy and again, I would suggest that some more trees and shrubs be planted in the grounds. Perhaps you might consider getting the advice of a colour consultant to devise an overall colour scheme for the built environment.

## **LANDSCAPING**

Again, this year the area on the Carrick road was beautifully kept and had some delightful roses and plants which were very well maintained. There was some lovely planting done at the yield signs of the Fountain roundabout. There was some nice shrubs and roses inside the railing at this junction also. The open green spaces do need more regular grass cutting. I see from the application form that you have plans to do this. The trees on the green area towards the factory gates are maturing very well but the grass did need cutting. Also, the open space at the junction of Queen Street and Brown Street again needed cutting. The area around the factory gate is very untidy and is overgrown.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The river and the canal areas are ideal to develop the wildlife aspect of your town. You do need to identify the wildlife habitats in those areas and see what species there are of fish, animals, birds and ducks. Please do make contact with a local environmental expert or the Irish Wildlife Conservancy who would be only too glad to give whatever help and assistance they can. Do also have a look at the Tidy Towns Handbook which your Committee received this year as it contains some very useful information. With a little imagination and some planning even the smallest areas can be improved. It will also make nature more accessible and enjoyable for people.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

You do need to put in place a plan and to take measures to encourage public awareness of the damage caused by litter. On the day of adjudication, there was litter evident throughout the town. The presence of litter is disappointing for your Committee and it does need to be tackled. I would suggest that you liaise with the Local Authority and draw up a plan to control it. I do see that the County Council are co-operating as are the school children and the Foróige Youth Club. You certainly do need more litter bins throughout the town. It is also essential to have them in the right place and to have them frequently emptied. There was litter in the car park at the Church, at the factory gate area, in the green space opposite the Enterprise Centre and in the housing estates. There was also litter scattered throughout the streets of Portlaw, not huge amounts, but pieces throughout the street. You would need to give the litter serious thought in your 3 to 5 year plan.

## **TIDINESS**

It was good to see that you have a Recycling Centre and it is excellent in every way. It is a great example of how things can be done. The weed control at the kerbs and at the base of walls was much improved.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

I note from your entry form that you are encouraging residents to be house proud and also to present their gardens to a high standard. Many of the residents are doing that and are to be commended. The properties on the Carrick-on-Suir road as last year are again very well presented. There are new houses being constructed off the Waterford road and when completed, no doubt, the open green spaces will be given attention. The area in front of the houses on the Waterford road was not very tidy. The railing needed to be painted and removed from the green space. The houses in Brown Street have some very nice colours. I would suggest again that you talk to a colour consultant who would draw up an overall colour scheme for Brown Street and indeed other streets throughout the town. Boundary fences and walls do need some attention throughout. Again, some of the buildings do look dull and perhaps the use of window boxes and planters would brighten the streets. You continue to have some dereliction and I would suggest that you talk to the Local Authority regarding this.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

The car park at the Church does need to be tidied up, and weeds and gravel mounds removed. The area below the Recycling Centre does need attention and should be cleaned up. Some footpaths would need to be repaired and replaced. Open spaces need to be tidied up as do gates to the fields which also need to be painted or replaced. Again, as suggested last year, it would help enormously to have nameplates on the streets. This should also be included in your plan and the names should be bilingual where appropriate.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

You need to produce a plan which will guide your activities over the next few years. It is difficult with a small Committee to cover the large area. As stated last year, Portlaoise has the potential to do well in this Competition. No doubt you will review the way your Committee functions and develop a programme of suitable action for the litter problem. Do seek additional members to come on to your Committee which will make the task in hand easier to accomplish. Do keep up the good work which you are

doing for the town with limited resources, financial and the size of your Committee.