

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **PORTMAGEE**
County : **KERRY**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 23-06-2000

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2000 | Mark Awarded 1999 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 35 | 34 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 29 | 28 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 30 | 29 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 16 | 17 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 30 | 30 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 15 | 15 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 20 | 19 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 25 | 24 |
| General Impression | 10 | 8 | 8 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 208 | 204 |

Portmagee, County Kerry

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The committee in Portmagee of 15 is a very satisfactory number and with such a strong number it is not surprising that very good work is being achieved in the town. The co-operation with so many bodies proves how important such contacts are. Not only do they help to progress the development of the town but also they improve the sense of community. Your submission clearly sets out the projects and the steps and time scale to achieve them.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The approach to Portmagee while coming across the bridge is very colourful and looks lovely set against the green hill behind. The new promenade with the attractive stone is a very impressive job. The walls and plantings associated make for a very successful project. The toilet building is in keeping with the theme of the stone, although some finishing is needed. The entire length of the seafront is well presented with the freshly whitewashed walls, the picnic areas and walking spaces are attractive. The part opposite the Bridge Bar is ideal for a sunny day. The standard of painting of the fronts of the buildings is bright and cheerful and they contribute well to the overall appearance of the town. The approach to the church is particularly pleasant with those lovely stone walls. Surfaces at the church approach and Lovers lane are well finished. The Fishermans bar is especially well presented and reflects great effort. The community centre is attractively painted and landscaped well to either end in the limited space available. The formula of blue and black colouring for all the seats is effective. The manner in which these seats fit into the new wall opposite the community centre is clever. Normally in a village or town can suffice, but in Portmagee, because the backs of buildings are visible to the bridge crossing and the church carpark has opened up a further area of the backs of houses is visible and further attention has to be given to houses. Portmagee is meeting this challenge in its programme.

LANDSCAPING

There are a number of well-landscaped spots around Portmagee. Because no gardens of houses are visible it is all the more important that any opportunity for landscaping is taken. The well-kept grass verges on the Cahirciveen road are well done. The planting in association with the work at the toilets is well done. Pockets of landscaping at both ends of the community centre are nice. The Escalonia hedge on the way to the church adds a welcome soft touch to that area as do the clusters of hebes along the waterfront and the lovely group of

Hydrangeas at a point along the street. Hebes, Escalonias, New Zealand Flax and Oleareas all do well and it is wise to concentrate on these. Individual gardens outside the main centre of the village contribute well to the overall appearance of the landscaping of the town

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

With the assets of the river, mountain and sea, ample opportunities exist to avail more of the wildlife potential of the area and some concentration should now be seriously focused on this. The work at the river could be developed and at present seems to be becoming overgrown. This is a real opportunity.. The extended grass areas by the shore are an asset and are well tended.

LITTER CONTROL

Apart from a few pieces of litter the standard is very high - thanks to all the efforts of everybody in the various schemes.

TIDINESS

There is a good tidy quality to the town. There are always some buildings and premises that need to be attended to and this is why committees exist.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

An unusually high number of dwellings are on the streetside with no front gardens. As stated above many of these are now carefully looking after both sides of their homes. Above the main street the housing is well maintained. The difficulty of getting trees to grow is understood but there are many fine seaside shrubs that can flourish as the people of Portmagee will have observed.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The removal of overhead cables will be welcome when that day arrives. Surfaces of roads are cared for and the areas of the church carpark and the Lovers lane have been nicely treated.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

An impression of a vibrant tidy towns committee at work is clearly given. The works planned will take a little time but once there is good progress that is half the battle.