

*"Caring for our environment"*

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

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 14-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	23	22
The Built Environment	40	29	28
Landscaping	40	28	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	14	15
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	19	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	25
General Impression	10	5	5
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>169</b>

## **Portlaw, County Waterford**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

This committee clearly has tremendous tenacity and endurance, as well as an imaginative response to the environmental needs of its village. Slow as it may appear at present, the village is improving every year thanks to your dedication. Portlaw is a truly unique place by reason of its highly unusual street pattern, its fine buildings and its superb location. You are urged to undertake a 3 or 5 year Development Plan, laying out projects to be completed in successive years which will act as a stimulus to action and meeting those targets. Additional marks as an incentive to local pride, as suggested on your entry form, would be counter-productive: marks are given for (a) initiative, and (b) achievement; if your suggestion were accepted, the increase would have to be given in fairness to all the other 700 centres in the Competition, and the resulting ratio of placings would end up the same.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The two Churches are well maintained. The newly painted Library is a distinct asset in its commanding position. The School, and its grounds, are very well kept. The Credit Union and the Post Office are particularly smart. As mentioned last year, the gable of the otherwise well presented Enterprise Centre needs painting. There are two very fine stone buildings on the Waterford road, not named on your map, where some restoration work would be helpful. The Garda Station and the nearby Community Hall both need attention. It is a pity that the symmetry of Brown Street has been broken to admit a garage. O'Connor's shopfront is attractive, and there are two potentially magnificent shopfronts close to the roundabout – one next the Library and the other a few yards down Main Street.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The rose garden at the roundabout, the roundabout itself, the planting at the grotto, and several really well devised and nurtured corner sites on the Carrick road enhance the townscape greatly. The long roadside garden on the Carrick road is perhaps the most impressive piece of decorative planting of all. The large green opposite the Enterprise Centre had recently been cut, but grass cuttings should be removed after mowing.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Not a great deal seems to have been done since last year, but the mark will be left at the same level in the hope that

some of the suggestions made by the 1999 adjudicator are being taken into consideration. 'Awareness' should be a watchword; a start might be to invite a school class to initiate a competition where children would go out and identify the greatest number of (e.g.) names of trees, flowers, birds, animals, etc. seen in the vicinity.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

There seemed to have been little success this year. Awareness, again, should start at primary school age. Of course litter should not be dropped, but, where it is seen, it should be a simple matter for householders to remove it from their frontages. The worst instance was all along Bridge Street, but there was litter on every street, including the roundabout. Is there something to be gained by the Committee, or some other prominent local body, offering a prize for the most litter-free (over a 12-month period) residential street? Please also see last year's comments under this heading.

## **TIDINESS**

There are several unkempt 'corners', and 'spots' where improvements to premises have been made but the debris not removed. It is a real advance to have a Recycling Centre in operation, but the site was weedy on adjudication day.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The majority of the houses in all the streets fanning out from the focal point of the splendid (if unloved) central gates are very well kept indeed. Trim cottage terraces on the Rathgormack road and in the centre of William Street are a delight. Many homes on streets away from the centre have beautifully kept front gardens, complementing the community landscaping effort. The new estate on the Waterford road is promising, and has ideal space for tree and shrub planting.

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

Most street and road surfaces are excellent, and there is good paving in the village centre. Some repair work is needed on the superb stone walls on approach roads. The new lamp standards being erected at the time of adjudication will add dignity to the village centre. Public seating is good.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

An enormously interesting village which declined in population from 4,000 a century and a half ago to its

present level due to economic factors, but now seems on the verge of positive change, thanks to the work of this Committee and other local bodies.