

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **PORTLAOISE**  
County : **LAOIS**  
Category : **E**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 29-06-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	45	45
The Built Environment	40	34	34
Landscaping	40	33	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	14	14
Tidiness	20	12	11
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	30
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>214</b>

## **Portlaoise, Co. Laois**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Portlaoise is welcome to the 2001 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission. Portlaoise has developed an interesting street layout with the bypass road on the outer ring and narrow streets in the inner sections of the town. Narrow side streets off the inner streets give Portlaoise an old world, intimate ambience.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Many shops along the main street are presented to an excellent standard, with just a few in need of attention. Many are being considered for the Shopfront Award. The large projecting 'Hughes' sign should be removed, as should the '7UP' sign from the Ramsbottom building. We look forward to the redevelopment of the site where work is under construction at Lower Main Street. Developments at the outer edge of the town are being finished to a high standard.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The Main Street is nicely landscaped, young trees are establishing themselves well. Some flower tubs were in full bloom, others had no flowers at all. The seated landscaped area in Lower Main Street was bereft of any type of planting which was unfortunate. The sports grounds and general recreation area, as well as the new park and memorial on the Station road are aptly situated near the heart of the town and nicely presented. Landscaping at the Dublin/Cork/Limerick junction on the roundabout has been very successful. Landscaping near the Garda Station is excellent. Amenity development for the town is growing. Well done!

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The old burial grounds look well occupying their prominent position on high ground at the lower part of the town. Well done on the pond Wildlife Sanctuary at Glendowns. The family of ducks was a delight to see first thing in the morning.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter control wasn't good on the day of adjudication. One of the litter bins in Upper Main Street near the taxi rank was overflowing. Has a litter survey been considered? Where these have been undertaken over a period of approximately one month and then acted upon, the results have been fruitful.

### **TIDINESS**

A derelict site on the Station road just beyond the memorial is a problem under this heading. It should be at least tidied

up as soon as possible, pending redevelopment. The 'old church' and Jessop street is excellent in its presentation. The Hanover Tyres depot looks untidy. The area around the bottle banks is quite tidy and these are appropriately located. A number of shopping trolleys were noted at various locations in the environs of the shopping centre, i.e. out the Timahoe road. The curtilage area of Massey Ferguson is untidy and the derelict petrol pumps here are a problem under this heading. The ESB power station looked poor to its roadside area.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

New and old housing developments out the approach roads are very well presented and nicely landscaped. The group of red bricked two storey houses opposite the County Hall are elegant. The Kyle Brook estate is nicely landscaped. A good overall presentation.

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

Many of the bollards along the main street were either mis-aligned or were damaged. This is unfortunate. Some of the other street furniture needed attention also in the form of cleaning or refurbishing. Well done on the new bilingual street names. The entrance to the Lismard Business Park is nicely surfaced and well landscaped. Some stretches of footpath out the Timahoe road have yet to be resurfaced and the roundabout and traffic island at the top of this road on the main road need to be landscaped. Many roundabouts at the outer edges of the town are not landscaped yet.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The overall impression of Portlaoise is favourable. The priority for next year should be to achieve a higher standard for the town centre. Consideration might be given to pedestrianizing some areas in the centre.