

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **PORTARLINGTON**  
County : **LAOIS**  
Category : **D**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 26-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	28
The Built Environment	40	23	23
Landscaping	40	25	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	20	20
Tidiness	20	10	10
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>180</b>

# **Portarlington, County Laois**

## **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

The activities of the Portarlington Tidy Towns Association are many and varied and its work and enthusiasm is commended. In particular, the association has concentrated its efforts to some considerable effect in the Peoples Park. The levels of cooperation developed with the Laois and Offaly County Councils, Leader and FAS bodes well for the future. Portarlington is an old town and much of its character derives from its small shops and narrow streets. It is suggested that this enthusiasm be used to generate greater contact with the business community in developing a vision and future strategy for the town's streets and buildings.

## **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The swimming pool is cleanly presented, and adjacent to it, the Community Centre was somewhat untidy with indiscriminate display of signs. The town's main street has a number of attractive 18th./19th. century houses some of which display architectural features associated with the Huguenot tradition. The facade on the post office is interesting and unusual. The shop fronts are small, varied and in most cases feature hand painted signs. The French church is nicely presented with trimmed grave yard and lawns. Midland Health Board bungalow has nothing of any note to recommend. The dilapidated state of the Arlington School building is most disappointing. The loss of this structure is a tragic loss to Portarlington

## **LANDSCAPING**

The open area at the access road to Supervalue needs to be cleaned up and planted. The riverside walk has clearly suffered from vandals. Portarlington is to be commended for the shrubbery/flower bed at its entrance. However, the vandals have managed to destroy some trees and the removal of seating has left scars in the riverside grass amenity. Out on the Edenderry road a fine restoration job has been done on the Spa bridge at the other end of the riverside walk. The screening trees along the wall adjacent to the Peoples Park is maturing nicely. Grass requires trimming at this point. John Fletchers yard requires screening. There is some tree planting along the right hand side which will improve this area when they mature. The GAA park is not well presented and displays considerable amount of weeds along its railing frontage. Truck parking is also a problem in this area. Opposite the GAA sports field is an excellently presented commercial office building screened with trees and well kept lawns

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Peoples park is well presented, a fine array of trees with seating adjacent to the Barrow River. The trees, both old and new provide a glimpse of the future wealth of this amenity. Grass had been cut but in some areas not collected. The Hartpole effigy looks

very well and provides a centrepiece (and on the occasion of the visit, a shelter) at this location. There are number of monumental features distributed throughout the park which adds interest to the amenity value as a whole. The shrubberies are maturing and are becoming a feature interest in their own right. On the road from Emo there is a nice amenity with isolated stone bridge.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

The park is litter free with an isolated black plastic bag blowing in the wind. Litter seems well controlled and there were some wheely bins on the town's footpaths.

## **TIDINESS**

There is a well maintained car park at Peoples Park and the only criticism is the need to address the problem of some weed at the kerb side. There is a fair amount of wirescape and parking on both sides of the town's streets takes away from appearance. Good to see recycling banks located in the car park on Link Road..

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The housing estate at Clonmoyler Crescent looks quite well with green area trimmed and a nice selection of trees. Foxcroft Court, a new housing development is well presented with new trees. Rose Court and Rose Court Lawns look very well with new trees and green.

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

Many of the town's footpath are not in good condition and require restoration. Main street is fairly narrow and is devoid of trees. The large timber lamp standards add to the visual congestion and consideration should be given to wall mounted lamps to help open what could be an interesting collection of small shops. The Square suffers from the central siting of a garage festooned with parked cars. While it is painted, it hinders the square's visual and social role within the community. The mix of buildings around the square, the magnificent French Church contrasts with the disappointing cinema frontage. The footpath along the park side of the Link Road is badly damaged by truck parking

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Portarlinton is an old town with considerable potential. Its tidy town achievements are many, but the next stage will demand stronger business and community support for its work.