

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Portmagee**

Ref: **340**

County: **Kerry**

Mark: **230**

Category: **A**

Date: **02/08/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	38
The Built Environment	40	32	32
Landscaping	40	33	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	32	31
Tidiness	20	17	16
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	26
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	230	226

Overall Developmental Approach:

This is a very attractive traditional fishing village. A considerable amount of work has been done to enhance the village and overall this gives a good impression. A clear annual programme of work has been outlined and if this is worked on a priority basis, the community will be pleased with the outcome.

The Built Environment:

Buildings generally in the village are well presented. The Portmagee Community Centre premises are excellently presented. The nearby constructed stone toilet building is well maintained. The Catholic church is a prominent building in the village and looks impressive with adjoining grounds excellently maintained. The national school and adjoining area were well attended to. Shop premises in the village were nicely presented.

Landscaping:

The village was again made very colourful this year by plentiful displays of flowers, window boxes, etc. The planting at the Waterville entrance to the village was very colourful and neatly carried out. Also, the flower beds planted in the large area here were beautifully managed. Landscaping in gardens in the vicinity of the grotto looked well. The colourful window boxes here looked well.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The river bank area is an appropriate area to develop for wildlife purposes. Planting in this vicinity will provide suitable habitat for some species of wildlife. It is noted that your survey has demonstrated that the Portmagee area is rich in wildlife. The arrival of a more bird species to the area has no doubt heightened interest in the wildlife aspect of your programme of activities. Your plan to construct a display board giving details of local wildlife, etc. would be a most useful development, both from an information and educational viewpoint. Providing written information on the area's wildlife would also be a worthwhile development. The provision of bird boxes is a good idea and hopefully these will have the desired effect.

Litter Control:

It is an excellent idea to hold a "National Spring Clean" day in the village each year. It is a good idea to aim this programme at young people, but an awareness must also be created in the adult population; if the entire community is made aware of the litter problem, it would go a long way to having a cleaner, better environment. The organising of weekly local litter patrols for specific areas of the village is also a positive step in dealing with this problem. At the time of adjudication, the litter situation in the village seemed well under control. The areas in the vicinity of the community centre and the public toilet/car park area were completely free of litter.

Tidiness:

There was a good level of tidiness around the entire village. At Bridge junction for Valentia, this area was very clean and tidy. The car park near the toilet building was very tidy. Areas around shops, the post office, telephone kiosk, etc. were also tidily maintained. The area around the church and the cemetery were also very tidy. The pier area was also quite tidy.

Residential Areas:

Houses and gardens in the vicinity of the grotto were nicely maintained. Many houses in the village gave much natural colour by good use of colourful window boxes. Overall, residents in and around the village made a good effort and as a result there are some very pleasant colourful homesteads in the vicinity. This is an important area of the competition and gives an opportunity to all residents to play a role.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The stonework in the vicinity of the public toilet is excellent; the new surfacing in the car park looks very well. The approach road from Waterville and the general area in the vicinity of the junction for Valentia was excellently presented. The seating and green area here were also of a very high standard. The old water pump near the toilet building has been excellently restored and is a nice feature in this area of the village. The walls surrounding the cemetery were well maintained. Lovers Lane was clean and tidy. The Skellig Ring Road approach was also quite tidy.

General Impression:

This is a most pleasant village and has many attractive features. The community is making a good effort with many aspects of the village. By pursuing a planned work programme, progress is being made. The community should continue with this approach and the progress made to date will be expanded on for the future. The community has a good foundation on which to build in that the village has a very scenic location.

Second Round Adjudication:

There appeared to be a number of new housing developments in Portmagee since the adjudicator's last visit. Most houses and gardens were well presented, although a number of boundary walls were not to the same high standard. The school looked very fresh. A container opposite the building occupied by Skelligs Trips looked unfortunate, and should be removed once its purpose is complete. A derelict cottage looked unfortunate. The landscaped space by the bridge to Valentia looked well maintained and the public lavatories were well presented in stone. Portmagee has made great strides in the competition since this adjudicator last had the pleasure of visiting the town. Well done to all concerned and keep up the good work!