

# Tidy Towns Competition 2003

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Portroe**

Ref: **287**

County: **Tipperary North**

Mark: **229**

Category: **B**

Date: **23/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	31
The Built Environment	40	33	31
Landscaping	40	33	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	18
Litter Control	40	32	32
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	31
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>223</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Portroe Tidy Town's Committee is certainly a large one given the population of the village. Your plan made very interesting reading and the adjudicator was pleased to note that you are encouraging the use of bi-lingual signage. Your work in relation to the promotion of the slate quarries is to be highly commended. Do be reassured that the judging of towns is not based purely on the cosmetic appearance of the village. Portroe should look good all year round. The judging unfortunately cannot take place any earlier in the year due to the tight timeframe involved in assessing such a large number of towns within the relevant timescale.

### The Built Environment:

The restoration of the water pumps is to be commended and both of them were admired. The hall looked extremely fresh and the stone church was quite neat. The graveyard was well maintained and the Garda Station looked good. The health centre and school were both fine - the magnificent grounds of the latter were admired. The Arra Inn looked quite fresh and the GAA pitch was presented to a high standard. Work appeared to be ongoing to the post office and associated buildings - these shopfronts are in much need of modernisation and therefore any work that takes place will be looked forward to with eager anticipation.

### Landscaping:

Work under this aspect of the competition is obviously creating much enthusiasm. The sun dial and slate monoliths at the crossroad were greatly admired. The picnic area with slate table and benches on the Limerick Road affords the visitor a magnificent view of Lough Derg. Your work in creating another viewing area is to be commended as the village affords the visitor a magnificent view over the surrounding countryside. The green space opposite the Texaco station is well maintained and the hanging baskets to the front of a whitewashed wall added an attractive splash of colour.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

Your work in relation to the water course area and the stump is to be commended. Do ensure that the watercourse does not become polluted. New trees along this road were coming along well.

### **Litter Control:**

The standard of litter control on the day was generally quite good. However, some litter was noted in the vicinity of the Texaco station and even a small amount of litter can create a bad impression in a village of Portroe's size. The new bins were noted and admired and appeared most shiny on the day!

### **Tidiness:**

The recycling area was fine but some screening could be most effective in years to come. Some badly maintained outbuildings near the centre of the village created a bad impression. Warning pillars to a stone wall in bad condition were noted on the Garrykennedy Road. Hopefully this wall will be restored to its original structural integrity before too long. It appeared quite weedy in the vicinity of the phone box and the field behind that looked rather overgrown. Perhaps a hedge could be grown in this location? A weedy yard area on the Limerick side of the village created a bad impression. Rusty railings were noted at a house opposite the school and these should be treated as soon as possible.

### **Residential Areas:**

The raised gardens to the houses near the village centre looked quite magnificent, as did the bungalows to the Ardara Estate with their magnificent green space, with trees and slate benches. Nasturtiums and snapdragons were noted in one particular garden which looked most cheerful. The Dromm Slinne Estate's open space appeared quite overgrown. The old Garda Station is a most attractive house.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

On the Ballycommon Road the bi-lingual signage was admired. The verges had been cut back and well maintained. The mature trees overhanging this location created a good impression. On the Limerick/Ballina Road weeds had been sprayed at the speed limit sign but had not yet been removed. The grass had been cut back in this location but again the dead grass had not been removed. Signage generally could have been in better condition, such as the junction sign on the Garrykennedy Road and directional signs in the vicinity of the village centre.

### **General Impression:**

Portroe is fortunate to be located in its elevated position as it commands magnificent views of Lough Derg and the surrounding countryside. Much effort has been made in the village over the last number of years - keep up the good work.

