

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Portroe**

Ref: **520**

County: **Tipperary North**

Mark: **233**

Category: **B**

Date: **06/07/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	33
The Built Environment	40	33	33
Landscaping	40	35	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	19
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
TOTAL MARK	300	233	229

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for the completed application form, excellent background and action plan material and map of the village. The committee of 14 has worked up a strong relationship with the Council and are not afraid to address contentious issues that affect the well being of the Village .

Of course one your main stated objectives -to foster community involvement in all aspects of the development and implementation-is the kernel to the its success.

The links with organisations such as Tipperary Nrth County Council, Leader, Shannon Development and Leader will all be beneficial long term.

The Built Environment:

The standard in this category was quite good and even thou there was a lot of ongoing building work taking place it did not unduly affect the streetscape.

The RC Church, Graveyard and School were presented to a very good standard, nothing too pretentious but basically well maintained. Two pumps were well restored and an example for other villages.

The Health Centre seems to have been refurbished and was very clean, the Garda Station deserves a mention in this context also.

The Community Hall according to the entry form has a new wooden sign, but it did not impress this adjudicator as it seemed illegible.

It is a pity that there are not more continuous footpaths in the village as it would make it easier to

walk and would do away with rough road edges.

On the negative side its a pity that two prominent derelict houses at the bottom village cannot be restored.

The streetscape will be complete when the house building in the centre of the Village is finished. The Arra Inn and a number of private residences were very much admired for the standard of presentation.

The PO/Shop could do with a make over in terms of signage as it does nothing for the look of the village in its present state.

Gleasons Spar Shop at bottom end of village, while a little cluttered in front, was well presented. The keepers of the GAA Ground deserve special mention for the manner in which the excellent grounds are maintained. There was a huge coming together of kids for hurling practice on the day. What would rural Ireland have done if we did not have the GAA.

Landscaping:

Lots of impressive work in this category and it is good to see more emphasis on the planting of suitable trees in and around the village.

The approach roads had some nice planting arrangements as one entered the village.

The core area at the centre of the Village (Sundial) had effective planting not overdone with annuals and such.

Good to see that the Committee are intent in helping residents find solutions to problems such as disposal of grass cuttings and the introduction of plants that would entail easy maintenance.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The hedging and fuschia mentioned in the entry form were noted and these will contribute to the conservation of wildlife by just providing natural habitats.

Portroe has a number of other potential habitats that could provide the stimulus for a special project that could be done in conjunction with the School.

Litter Control:

The Litter control programme involving local residences is proving successful as there was very little litter to be seen in the village on the day.

The areas mentioned in last years report seemed to have improved as there was only a few wrappers to be seen.

Tidiness:

Building works in the village proper has contributed to some untidiness but this is only of a short duration.

There was some untidy side areas in the vicinity of the Dromslinne Estate also grass cuttings should be cleaned up and collected,

The Bottle Bank could be screened better.

The signage problem referred to in last years report still exists but I suppose this is a problem for the County Council not Tidy Towns Committees.

Residential Areas:

The excellent established Adara Estate had green areas properly maintained, boundary walls painted and some very pleasant gardens.

Dromslinne was acceptable but has much more potential and it is good to see that Committee proper has become involved in the formation of an estate sub committee.

There were a large number of private houses that were well maintained and later in the afternoon many home owners were out tidying up frontages and gardens well before the torrential showers that followed on later in the evenings

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The roads from both Nenagh and Ballina were very well presented with nice features such as restored pumps in Tipp colours no doubt.

The road from Drom Slinne Estate was a little untidy due to ongoing building work.

Garrykennedy entrance was very good with verges cut back in accordance with recommendations for the preservation of wildlife

There is need for an extended footpath up to the Dromslinne estate further out that particular road.

The Committee should, if it has not done already, concur with the County Council re the possibility of addressing and improving the signage problem

General Impression:

Portroe Village is situated in an idyllic part of the County Tipperary adjacent to Lough Derg.

The adjudicator found beneficial improvements since the last visit some 5 years back.

The Village has made an excellent effort each year to improve its standing not alone in the Competition but also in the County