

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Portlaw**

Ref: **10**

County: **Waterford**

Mark: **192**

Category: **C**

Date: **26/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	23
The Built Environment	40	29	29
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	16
Litter Control	40	21	16
Tidiness	20	14	13
Residential Areas	30	23	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	26
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>178</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

For this, your second year in the competition, it is indeed gratifying to see that you have good community support and that Waterford County Council are also behind your efforts, all of which was evident on adjudication day. Thank you indeed for the information sent with the entry form and for the map which was most useful. For next year however perhaps you might indicate on the map by way of a colour code where projects have been carried out for 2005 so that the Adjudicator may find them more easily. Success in the competition does not come overnight but, nevertheless, the comments made in the report last year regarding the provision of a three/five year plan still apply. Future success will depend on the identification of projects which can be carried out on a year to year basis which the Adjudicator can have sight of on the day. However, it must also be remembered that maintenance of what already exists is most important and is in fact, the backbone of your entry.

### The Built Environment:

All the major public buildings mentioned in last year's report were again visited this year and are being very well maintained which reflects great credit on those who have responsibility for them. The Grotto is a lovely feature and its immediate surroundings and the roundabout represent the focal point of the town. The Gate Lodge is still, unfortunately, a distraction. Street furniture, where presented, looked well and is being well maintained. Some dereliction does still exist and, in this connection, you are referred back to the comments made under this heading in last year's report

regarding the involvement of your Local Authority. Business premises again looked well and blended in nicely with the profusion of houses in Portlaw and created a nice atmosphere.

### **Landscaping:**

Open spaces are being well maintained, particularly in the area of the Grotto and planting at the roundabout was admired. Portlaw has many fine open spaces where you should endeavour to carry out further landscaping by way of trees and shrubs. While the planting of flowers is not discouraged, nevertheless, trees and shrubs have a longer life and require less maintenance. Those planted some years ago in the town are now maturing very nicely. New planting will be for the future and posterity will thank you for it. Part of any future planning could be the identification of sites where this might take place. In the event however, do take the best advice possible.

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

Your comments under this heading were noted. On the day, ducks were not to be seen on the river but perhaps the Adjudicator was looking in the wrong place. The river is, indeed an ideal site for such a project. In addition you might consider getting your school children involved in the provision of nesting boxes and feeding table, perhaps in the school ground, which will be a lovely addition and a great interest to both residents and visitors alike. Again, in the event, do take the best advice available to you either through the Heritage Council or someone in the locality who is knowledgeable on the subject.

### **Litter Control:**

Portlaw is a large, strungout town but, on adjudication day was practically litter free. Unfortunately some litter was to be seen on the approach from Kilmeaden beside a broken wall which also looked very untidy and had rubbish in its vicinity. Nevertheless, this is a great effort by all concerned and reflects greatly the interest which your residents have in their environment. It is, however, an important part of the competition and needs constant monitoring.

### **Tidiness:**

A good deal of building is taking place in Portlaw which leads to untidiness but this will pass in time. In the meantime, an allowance has been made for it in the adjudication. Otherwise the town was very nicely presented and again, great credit is due to your commercial operators and residents alike.

### **Residential Areas:**

Some lovely new estates have been and are being built in Portlaw and will add greatly to the stock of housing there. For a town of its size it is unique in the amount of terraced houses which it contains. On adjudication day, the vast majority of houses were very well presented and many had gardens in full bloom which were a joy to see. These, plus the provision of window boxes, hanging baskets, tubs of flowers etc. created a lovely atmosphere throughout the town. Well done to all concerned.

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

While your comments have been noted nevertheless in general, approach roads looked well and new road surfacing was noted. Pathways are being well maintained and, in all of this, your County Council are to be congratulated for their involvement. The condition of approach roads is very important as they tend to set the tone for the rest of the town. In this connection, do study the notes in the Tidy Towns Handbook regarding strimming and the preservation of wild flowers and wildlife habitat.

**General Impression:**

Portlaw looked very nice this year and, generally speaking, has improved on 2003. There is a need, however, to identify projects which can be carried out under each heading of the competition which you could carry out from year to year and which, in the process, will gain you additional marks. Success in the competition, generally depends on planning and attention to detail and many centres have embarked on such a programme. In this respect, the town has great potential and the Adjudicator looks forward to returning next year to see further progress being made.