

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Portmagee**

Ref: **594**

County: **Kerry**

Mark: **244**

Category: **A**

Date: **17/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	42	40
The Built Environment	40	35	33
Landscaping	40	34	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	21
Litter Control	40	34	32
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	27
General Impression	10	9	8
TOTAL MARK	300	244	233

Overall Developmental Approach:

The contents of the submissions with the entry form are very impressive. The Tidy Towns movement is certainly taken with great seriousness in Portmagee and this is also clearly evident from the great progress that has been made and the general state of the village when visited today. A key factor in the committee's operation is certainly the cooperation gained from so many parties in the village. So much voluntary work has been done and so many bodies have been involved through the years – this is a great credit to the committee and their powers of encouraging people to participate. The work of FAS schemes and your persistence with public bodies to achieve goals is praiseworthy. The work programme as documented in the submission for the next three years is comprehensive and will take Portmagee even further.

The Built Environment:

The public toilets both inside and out are an example of the standards we would like to see around the country. The building style and materials are attractive. The community centre and the Garda station also look very well. The Health Centre and the buildings to the rear could be improved. The Catholic Church looks particularly well with the combination of red window frames and white walls. The gates were also noted. Stone or slate walls play a very significant part of the fabric of the built environment in Portmagee. The walls at the toilet look especially well. The walls to either side of the churchyard are a lovely feature. The new carpark and adjacent areas look very well. This fits in well

with the surrounds and a fine job has been done here. The seating here and along the seafront looks very attractive in the unified colour scheme of the particular shade of blue and black. The piers and harbour area are well organised and the public lighting there is unobtrusive. The façade of the many colourful buildings along the waterfront looks spectacular especially when adorned with the displays of planted containers. The road behind O'Keeffe's public house reveals an unattractive shed. The backs of buildings are often not the most attractive – the opening of back areas often reveals these and a solutions has to be found. Work on the appearance of the backs of buildings was noted. The very well painted wall all along the seaward roadside was admired. The garage near the Waterfront has been painted which is very welcome and helpful.

Landscaping:

There is a great amount of landscape work completed and maintained very well. This gives a very good sparkle of colour to the village. The many hanging baskets and window boxes really look spectacular so early in the season. Congratulations to all who are responsible for this display. Landscaping at the entrance from the bridge is both attractive and non fussy. The borders at the toilet and community centre area as well as the welcoming greens area a delight. The Park is attractive and has a lovely setting. The grotto is well maintained – but best of all the meticulous upkeep of the approach to this - grass well tended, Escallonia hedge and gray painted kerbs all combine to give an impressive sight and add to the residential road. The many fine Hebes, Fuchsia, Escallonia and Olearia -all perfect plants for seaside locations combine well with the stonewalls and painted walls in the village. The school garden seems in need of attention and out of context with the rest of the village development

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The riverbank wildlife amenity is a very appropriate project. The encouragement for wildlife by the sowing of seeds and plantings is commendable. The survey work has proved interesting and with such information available the next stage is the communication of this information to residents and visitors by whichever means is most suitable. The Sceilg Experience will be very helpful in this regard.

Litter Control:

There appears to be a very comprehensive system of litter management in the village. The recycle bins – with bilingual titles, are well placed and perfectly clean. The vigilance of your litter warden, the work of the committee and every individual within the village deserve credit for the fine performance under this heading.

Tidiness:

Tidiness is to the forefront of the village. Portmagee can certainly be said to be a truly "tidy town". The small number of derelict buildings or those needing attention is shown up now that everywhere else looks so well. Solutions will be found for these with time.

Residential Areas:

The housing estate by the grotto as mentioned above shows great effort not only with the landscape but the painting and general upkeep of the houses themselves. The many houses through the village are well cared for and well presented. Many of these also contribute well by the care attention to their gardens and road frontage, It is good that derelict building sites can be availed of for new buildings – this not only solves a problem but brings back life to a spot in the village.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The road through the village is in good condition. The road to the school is of lesser quality with

edges needing attention in places. The main roads approaching the village are in good shape and road markings seem adequate. Surfaces in the carpark are very good and well marked.

General Impression:

Portmagee is to be congratulated on the comprehensive improvement scheme that has taken place over the years and continues. No doubt the repair work and the undergrounding of cables will happen with the committee's record of achievements to date.

Second Round Adjudication:

The public garden with slate sculpture by the bridge with slate sculpture and bird tables was admired. A rusty pole near the bridge created a bad impression. The retention of the square traditional sign is commendable. The stone public lavatories were admired, as was the Community Centre with its colourful displays of hanging baskets. The school and church both looked very fresh. The derelict cottage had been freshly whitewashed with a pretty display of montbretia to its front area – indeed there were a number of areas in the village which had been re - whitewashed. The marvellous displays of montbretia along the Skelligs Ring area looked magnificent. The commercial properties of the village looked well – of note being the Bridge Bar looked very fresh as did the Moorings. The village of Portmagee has shown definite improvements in recent years, and has certainly developed in leaps and bounds since this adjudicator first visited it.