

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Portlaw**

Ref: **47**

County: **Waterford**

Mark: **200**

Category: **C**

Date: **15/06/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	25
The Built Environment	40	29	29
Landscaping	40	30	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	26	21
Tidiness	20	15	14
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	200	192

Overall Developmental Approach:

It is gratifying to read that you are receiving good local assistance for your Tidy Towns efforts and you also have the support of your Local Authority. Thank you indeed for the information sent on the entry form and for the map which was most useful on adjudication day. However as mentioned in last years adjudication report you should try to identify on a year to year basis what projects you might undertake within your physical and financial resources and which can be carried out in conjunction with your Local Authority, Local Organisations and with possibly the help of FAS, LEADER etc. Nevertheless very good work is being done and the town is being well maintained.

The Built Environment:

Your public buildings, Church and School are being well maintained. The Grotto is a lovely feature and seems to improve each year. Some dereliction and what appear to be abandoned buildings still exist of which the gate lodge is a classic example. It is indeed a pity that something cannot be done about this in terms of its preservation as it takes away from what is the focal point of the town i.e. The Grotto and the surrounding green areas. Perhaps this is a matter which could be discussed with your Local Authority. In this connection perhaps another site for your bottle bank might be considered it certainly looks out of place beside a Grotto. Business premises throughout the town are

being well looked after and reflect great credit on their owners. Your bilingual street name plaques are a nice feature.

Landscaping:

Open spaces in the vicinity of the Grotto are being well maintained. On adjudication day however some spaces throughout the town needed attention. As mentioned in last years report you should give some thought to a tree/shrub planting campaign. There are many places in Portlaw which would benefit from this and future generations will thank you for it.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your comments under this heading are noted but you are once again encouraged to consider a wildlife project as suggested in last years report. In this connection you might consider a visit to Fenor Bog and see what has been achieved there by a very small community. The River Clodagh is, indeed, an ideal location for such a project. In the event do take the best advice available to you. Some useful information is available on this subject in the Tidy Towns Handbook.

Litter Control:

Litter control throughout the town is excellent. There was however some minor evidence of littering on the Kilmeaden approach and one or two of the side streets. Generally speaking however a great effort has been made under this heading and all concerned are to be congratulated. It is an important part of the competition.

Tidiness:

There is a lot of building going on in Portlaw at the moment which lends itself to untidiness. However this will pass and has been allowed for in the adjudication. For a town of its size it was presented in a very neat and tidy manner and again great credit is due for this to your commercial operators and residents alike.

Residential Areas:

Housing estates generally looked well and, where presented, open spaces are being well looked after. The unique terraced houses of Portlaw are also being well maintained. Some looked resplendent with new coats of paint. Window boxes, hanging baskets, planters and individual flower beds throughout the town greatly enhanced its general appearance and many houses had lovely gardens in full bloom which were lovely to see. When new housing estates are complete it would be important to impress on builders the necessity of providing proper landscaping before they leave the site. If you have not already done so you should encourage the formation of residents associations in these estates and invite representatives from them to join your committee. This has been very successfully done in other centers and has greatly enhanced the Tidy Towns efforts.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Road surfaces are in very good condition and pathways are being well maintained. This again reflects great credit on your Local Authority. The condition of the verges on approach roads however varied. Some were nicely trimmed and looked well. Others were not. The condition of approach roads is very important as they tend to set the tone for the rest of the town. Perhaps this is a matter which you could discuss with your Local Authority as it is one which needs constant monitoring.

General Impression:

In spite of difficulties which you may be experiencing in terms of the involvement of more local interests you are, never the less, doing excellent work particularly in the area of maintenance. Perhaps you might consider, at some stage, calling a public meeting to discuss your Tidy Towns endeavors to which you could invite representation from your Local Authority, your Regional Tourism Authority (based in Waterford) FAS etc. This type of undertaking has been very successful in other centers. As mentioned in last years report "success in the competition greatly depends on planning and attention to detail". The result of such a meeting could be the identification of a number of projects to be carried out on a year to year basis within your physical and financial resources and availing of any assistance which might be entitled to from the agencies involved. Portlaw has great potential in this respect and do very well in the Tidy Town Competition.