

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Portmagee** Ref: **348**
County: **Kerry** Mark: **256**
Category: **A** Date(s): **17/07/2006**
10/08/2006

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	43
The Built Environment	50	35
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	23
Litter Control	50	34
Waste Minimisation	20	4
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	9
TOTAL MARK	400	256

Overall Development Approach:

Portmagee is welcome to the 2006 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission which included your three year development plan, this was most interesting and we wish you every success in its implementation. Portmagee enjoys an excellent coastal location with its attendant seascapes and wild fowl habitats in addition to having access to Valencia Island and of course being located on the wonderful Skellig Ring. Scenic views of the island and beautiful seascapes were appreciated on the day of adjudication. Well done to the Tidy Towns committee of fifteen for their involvement of the business community, the schools and other community groups together with development agencies such as the County Council, FAS, Cork Kerry Tourism, ESB, Leader and more.

The Built Environment:

All buildings were beautifully presented on the day of our visit and those particularly admired were the Garda Station, for its well painted premises and boundary wall together with flower displays in window boxes, the Community Centre and the Health Centre for the standard of painting to their premises plus the Bridge Bar, The Moorings and O'Keefes and of course not to forget both the church, which was exceptional in its presentation, and the school. Well done on the memorial to people lost at sea. We wish you every success in your planned projects and most especially for the ducting of overhead service cables.

Landscaping:

Grassed areas have been beautifully maintained and were presented to the highest standard on adjudication day. Your public art including the dolphin and the memorial to people lost at sea are attractive features. Flower displays in containers at numerous locations around the village were admired for their colour and profusion. At the time of adjudication mounds of earth were a feature of the school grounds. No doubt further

work is planned for this area.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Verges of approach roads featured wild grasses and wild flowers, most of which were Montebretia which were in full bloom during the adjudication process. The pier was presented to the highest standard with no litter, weediness or untidiness in evidence. The bird boxes are an excellent initiative which should be taken a stage further by undertaking a survey of birds that visit. We note also the planting of native gorse and fuchsia in the area together with whitethorn and blackthorn. We wish you well in the forthcoming publication of a Wildlife and Sealife pamphlet and request that you forward one when these are available. The development of your proposed nature trail of the flora and fauna of the area is also looked forward to with anticipation.

Litter Control:

Litter control was excellent at the time of our visit well done. Your litter control activities, particularly your litter patrols, have addressed the problem of litter blackspots. Well done on the care taking of the public toilet block and of course your participation in the National Spring Clean Day. No doubt your planned liaison with your County Council regarding your development of litter control plan by the harbour master will bear fruit also, keep us informed of the progress in this regard.

Waste Minimisation:

The presentation of your recycling point was excellent and we note that you are working with Kerry County Council on the area of recycling and composting. Segregation of litter forms the basis of recycling of waste and is an important activity. To compete successfully under this heading an audit should be undertaken by each sector of the community e.g. households, schools, business, fishermen etc. with a view to finding new ways of reducing the amount of waste produce, in addition to collection for recycling.

Tidiness:

The overall standard of weed control is good and there is a similar good treatment of vacant buildings with the use of colour wash and the encouragement of wild flowers. Well done on the removal of the old sign at the phone box and negotiations regarding the tidiness issue of the pier and the boat yard. The proposed undergrounding of service cables is an excellent initiative and we wish you well together with the building of a new wall at the graveyard behind the church.

Residential Areas:

Well done to all householders for painting and landscaping to their own homes and public spaces within the environs. Congratulations to those involved in the window box scheme also and those householders who improved their back entrances to their properties are to be commended. We note your proposal to approach the Southern Health Board regarding the condition of the Health Centre however the building itself looked quite well during adjudication. You are wished every success regarding the acquisition of sign posting and street lighting at the cemetery.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The yellow and black painting of roadside kerbs gives a nice finish to well-surfaced roads and footpaths. Signage throughout the village was excellent and the car park was neatly presented with its flower displays on top of its retaining wall. When service cables are being ducted, if it is necessary to prioritise, then both the service poles and the wirescape located beside the water pump should be the first to go as this site is quite unsightly due to these elements. Approach roads look wonderful with their stands of wild flowers, especially the montebretia.

General Impression:

Well done on the removal of the large orange container and the open vista allowed from the vantage point of the pier, the innovative way in which funding was raised to accomplish the removal of the container and the development of the car park is especially interesting and praise is due indeed to all concerned. Good luck for the future.

Second Round Adjudication:

It was bright sunshine that greeted this adjudicator on an August day. High season tourism ensured that the village was overflowing with visitors and parking was problematic. Indeed, you should seek an arrangement for one side parking on the main street and give the visitors and locals some degree of comfort as they traverse the area. Once again it was high colour and fresh painting throughout the village and the approach from Cahersiveen is most appealing. Well done on the new sculpture although the white on the surround is a bit out of place. The treatment of the hanging baskets at the national school is commendable during school holidays. The house opposite the Post Office has some splendid sash windows and illustrates what can be done if the will is there. Well done also on the appearance of the Community Hall although the inside is now in need of refurbishment. You have done well again this and raised your marks. You now need to concentrate on some of the problem areas mentioned in previous reports: these include some dereliction and poorly presented side areas. In general an excellent performance by Portmagee.