

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Portmagee** Ref: **348**
County: **Kerry** Mark: **262**
Category: **A** Date(s): **14/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	44
The Built Environment	50	35
Landscaping	50	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	23
Litter Control	50	34
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	20
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	26
General Impression	10	9
TOTAL MARK	400	262

Overall Development Approach:

Portmagee is welcome to the 2007 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission. Portmagee is situated in a beautiful coastal region and has still managed to maintain its community feel despite high tourist numbers passing through. It was good to see the work the Tidy Town committee has done not only in its improvements in the town but also in increasing its members and its commitment to including all groups in the community including schools, church members and businesses.

The Built Environment:

It is noted that any derelict buildings have been kept in good order and by covering the windows in metal sheets and painting them the same colour as the building, they are hardly noticed as being derelict at all. This had been an issue in the past that has been addressed well. The main street is very well painted and maintained. The toilet block in the main car park is well built and maintained. The prayer erected at the pier is a great new addition. It is noted that you have removed worn signage. The new signs erected at the village entrance look well.

Landscaping:

The oil tank at the school is very prominent when entering the grounds. It would be good if this could be disguised behind some bushes or a natural looking fence. There are also rusting tennis net posts that could be painted. The landscape of the school is well divided between grass areas and sealed sports areas. The rest of the school is extremely well kept and it looks well that wire fencing instead of fence palings have been used so that the fantastic views of the area can be seen. However there is a drain on the left when coming down the path before entering the main area. This drain is quite open and could be a hazard. Even if this is not a main play area for children, this is still an area that is easily accessible, especially when children and coming to and from school and an excited child could easily run into it. A different style grill would prevent this.

The landscaping on the outside of the school is well planted and bright and colourful. An area to the left at the start of the pier could be landscaped or perhaps an example of a curragh or other local history would be placed here. The landscaping in all areas including the wild roses and the plantings under the signs are well executed. The streets are very well maintained in regards to weeds.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The creation of the wild bird pamphlet is a great endeavour that will be informative for both locals and tourists alike. The constant upkeep of your natural surrounds by maintaining the river bank and pruning the white thorn and blackthorn is to be commended.

Litter Control:

There standard of litter control was very high on the day of adjudication. Well done on the methods you have put in place to keep this under control. It was also good to note there were ample bins in the area.

Waste Minimisation:

The work you have undertaken via the survey and providing letters to individual houses is commendable. The tidy towns bins are well maintained. The proposed storage area to be built for the bins will benefit the area. However, it is important to ensure that if the bins are not visible that signs informing of their location are.

Tidiness:

The standard of weed control is still high. The pier was tidy on the day with all ropes and other fishing items neatly stacked in areas except for one exception. The area on the pier is used by both commercial fisherman and tourists. It might be a good idea to mark out a set "footpath" simply with paint to ensure the safety of tourists in getting to their boats. This would also serve as a marker for an area for fisherman not to put their fishing in this area. On the day of adjudication we noticed one tourist nearly fall over some fishing items whilst rushing to her boat. This system of differentiating areas can be beneficial to both the tourists and fisherman if proper consultation with both sides is done prior to marking out.

Residential Areas:

The painting of the kerbs looks well. The new estate up by the hostel has a great community feel with its circular road and centre park area. Individuals have taken care and pride in their houses and they are generally all well presented.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

It would be good to see the footpath that is from the new estate opposite the hostel continue right down to town. There are some breaks in the footpath where people might have to walk on the road instead. Completion of this would allow easy access and encourage residents to walk instead of drive to the main street, especially those with children.

General Impression:

Much effort has been undertaken by the community to keep Portmagee litter free. It is well noted that continuous improvements are being made by the community to constantly improve Portmagee. Well done on your achievements