

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Portmagee**

Ref: **348**

County: **Kerry**

Mark: **318**

Category: **A**

Date(s): **22/06/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	49	49
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	41	42
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	44	44
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	31	32
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	20	20
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	66	66
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	30	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	32	33
TOTAL MARK	450	313	318

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Welcome to the SuperValu National Tidy Towns Competition 2017 and thank you for this year's submission and indeed for Portmagee's participation in the competition over the past 59 years! That is quite a record, well done. Thank you for the Tidy Towns Plan, the biodiversity plan and the map all of which facilitated adjudication; the map would have been more helpful had projects been colour-coded in addition to being linked numerically to details in the entry form. Community involvement and planning appears to be strong in Portmagee given the number of volunteers that can be relied upon for Tidy Towns work. The support network available to the committee of statutory bodies agencies and local groups is impressive also. Liaison with the school and the use of Facebook in addition to traditional methods of communication is favourably noted. The interpretive panels for Sli na Slainte walks, the Heritage Trail, Angling in Ireland are a fine facility; the Cliffs of Kerry feature should be highlighted also and opening times included. It is wonderful to note the benefits that have accrued to the community from participation in the Tidy Towns Competition, thank you.

Built Environment and Streetscape / An Timpeallacht Thógtha agus Sráid-dreacha:

Portmagee's built environment looks so well with its brightly coloured properties when viewed from across the water approaching from the bridge that it must be enviable to neighbouring communities. The Portmagee Community Centre is nicely painted; it's rear facade is just as well painted and presented as its roadside façade which is important as it is highly visible upon leaving the church building. Scoil Bhreanainn features a creative presentation to its roadside boundary walls. The HSE premises could be repainted to its roadside façade. We wish you success in accessing funding for the Spirit of St Louis Memorial and other initiatives. Well done on the capping of the church boundary wall. New lighting for the Dark Sky initiative is welcome and we anticipate a successful outcome for further developments in this initiative. New street furniture is favourably noted as is the Proclamation panel.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The landscaped area with dolphin sculpture at the entrance to the village from the Cahersiveen road is a handsome visual amenity. The nicely landscaped seated amenity area with a view of the seascape presents a welcome opportunity to sit and reflect. The village offers many seated amenity areas. The further planting of native species is well informed to support biodiversity however don't plant Montebretia which although naturalised is a non-native and invasive and will undermine local species if allowed to grow unchecked so just contain it rather than spreading it. Maintenance of existing beds is commendable as is the removal of Bind Weed and the use of seaweed and water as a liquid feed. It is good to note that the new biodiversity plan will influence future planting.

Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fiadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádurtha:

The 1916 Memorial Park at the foreshore area is being beautifully managed and the Proclamation panel here is appropriate. The foreshore area was clean as was the pier. Congratulations to the students of Scoil Bhreannain for their varied work under their biodiversity plan and congratulations to the Tidy Towns committee on their three-year biodiversity plan for Portmagee. It is good to report the start that has been made on the eradication of Japanese Knotweed from Portmagee and future plans to eradicate flax. Are there plans for the installation of a children's playground?

Sustainable Waste and Resource Management / Bainistiú Acmhainní agus Dramhaíola Inbhuanaithe:

The recycling facility located in the car park is maintained to a very high standard together with public toilets although the latter were locked during adjudication and could not be inspected within. It is good recycling practice to recycle coffee cups and other materials in the arts and crafts activities plus corks from wine bottles etc. the use of low energy lighting on the pier and in homes is laudable, try to calculate savings efficiencies achieved and update us on this next year. Energy savings achieved by community travel arrangements should also be calculated and presented in next year's competition. Portmagee's range of recycling and awareness initiatives is commendable. Activities to the rear of the school which include vegetable growing and a range of other sustainable projects are considered favourably under this heading too.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Litter control is excellent in Portmagee both along the street and on the foreshore area and it is good to note that the source of some of the litter has been identified and representations made to involved bodies which should reduce at least some of the litter at source. There are still some timber service poles and unsightly overhead service cables within the village and representations made regarding these have been noted. The treatment of vacant buildings along the seafront is good and the overall appearance of street furniture including signs, seating gates and more is one of tidiness. Participation in the annual and weekend clean-ups is high and indicative of a cohesive community.

Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:

Hopefully the sash windows of the fine house with sash windows located across from the Fisherman's Bar will be retained upon refurbishment. Work in progress on a new residential property in cul-de-sac will undoubtedly be completed to a high standard. Harborview residential enjoys an excellent presentation and an attractive presentation has been achieved for both the Ocean View Holiday Homes and the Hostel. Residential properties on the road to the Kerry Eclipse facility were presented to varying degrees at their roadside boundary walls, encourage all to present to the same high standard achieved for their dwellings and gardens. Commendations to all property owners who have made improvements to their premises this year.

Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:

Stretches of road and footpath surfaces in Portmagee are a bit patchy in quality; Roads to be resurfaced from the church to Lovers Lane and Kerry County Councils commitment to resurface from the graveyard incorporating the carpark will make a significant contribution under this heading. the pier walls appear to have been freshly white washed and look very well. The public toilets look well too on the outside however they were closed and couldn't be inspected on the inside. The recently painted blue and white pillars and rails forming the retaining walls to the bridge over the river is visually appealing. Well done on your proactive approach to directional signage and on the presentation of street furniture. Carparking facilities appear to be adequate and fit for purpose. We look forward to the completion of the Coastal Amenity Walk.

Concluding Remarks:

Portmagee is a charming village with many intriguing features on offer to the visitor, we look forward to future developments especially in relation to your new biodiversity plan.