

# Tidy Towns Competition 2011

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Portumna** Ref: **320**  
County: **Galway** Mark: **277**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **20/06/2011**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2010</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2011</b>
Overall Development Approach	50	37	37
The Built Environment	50	34	34
Landscaping	50	41	41
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	28	30
Litter Control	50	34	34
Waste Minimisation	20	12	12
Tidiness	30	17	17
Residential Areas	40	30	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	34	34
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>277</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to the 2011 TidyTowns competition. Your participation is important to the TidyTowns movement. Thank you for the entry form and the large amount of back up material. The map was excellent. The photographs capture the enthusiasm, many of the children, of people enjoying helping out. You have put a big effort into the preparation for the competition. A good sized committee holding plenty meetings and keeping the people informed of your plans and activities ensures steady progress. The contacts with the agencies and bodies keeps you well positioned to get proper advice and assistance, and it is noticeable that plenty assistance is assured from the amount of local clubs and others that you have listed. You have good contact with the schools and the many local events ensure that locals and tourists interact and form a good community spirit. All of this means you have a good approach to the competition.

### The Built Environment:

There are many fine old buildings that display unique architectural qualities such as the two churches, the Courthouse and of special interest is the work done by the OPW in Castle Courtyard where the workmanship is of a high quality. There is an interesting ruin of a church with a well manicured graveyard alongside it near the castle. And the castle is an imposing and very historical building. Many other delights of architecture and historic sites are enjoyed on a trip around this old but very well preserved town. The shops are interesting with some of the traditional shops fronts and ones of a modern design. The schools are well presented. The spacious hotel has wonderful landscaping with large open spaces and has a beautiful railing at the roadside.

### Landscaping:

Mention of Portumna nowadays reminds us of the fantastic achievements of the hurlers of Portumna at club and county level, but there are many other talented people in this proud town where enthusiasm and

imagination are displayed in abundance especially in regard to landscaping. One is welcome to the town with good grass verges and neatly trimmed hedges in many areas and the background of traditional stone walls makes for a picturesque landscape setting. The stone signposts stand out in great style. At different locations around the town, flowers in flowerbeds and planters adorn the surroundings. There are a great number of mature trees complimented by many young trees recently planted that give a freshness and maturity to the surroundings. The parks are maintained in great tradition with plenty of seats and other garden furniture to enable people to relax in beautiful surroundings.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The wildlife enthusiast is advised to head for Portumna where they will be entertained in a variety of ways. The adjacent forest park provides walks for the energetic through the trees where the fauna and flora give little delights of nature as we stroll along. I enjoyed the descriptions of the places of interest, seating and sound walking surfaces. It is great to see the wheel chairs are well accommodated – well done. The numerous flowers, trees and shrubs in the gardens and open spaces provide shelter and food for many species of wildlife. The many sites outlined in your photographs are great places to visit where there is abundance of flowers of all types that have great colour. Then there is the spacious park at the side of Lough Derg that again has great open spaces. And of course here the people interested in water sports and pastimes are well catered for.

### **Litter Control:**

There are plenty litter bins all over the place, but a few on the bridge road were full to overflowing. Around the rest of the town the litter bins are well serviced. We see in the photographs where the children are encouraged to get involved in picking up litter and great to see the scouts and cubs involved. The distribution of the “Keep Galway Tidy” shopping bags is an excellent idea. These initiatives are paying off as you are on top of this potential problem area.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

The Car Boot Sale can be a good way of recycling goods that are no longer required by some but come in handy for others. Good to see you are pursuing water harvesting systems, and the recycled water used keeps the use of council water under control. I inspected the recycling area where there were several bins all well serviced in a neat and tidy location. The green flag initiative is a great scheme where the pupils, parents and teachers get a better understanding of the best way to look after the local environment.

### **Tidiness:**

The town looked in a tidy way with weeds controlled and clean roads and footpaths. There are a number of derelict houses that make their location untidy, but there is not a lot you can do about this. I was very surprised to find where concrete was dumped in the smashing woodland area. I enjoyed the children's paintings on the walls near the recycling area and there we also enjoyed the old photographs of Portumna and its people. The children's playground is a lovely setting in that recessed area.

### **Residential Areas:**

The older parts of the town have some wonderful townhouses and some excellent larger houses that were very well maintained and presented. A few estates are unfinished and work seemed to be stopped and hopefully these new houses can be soon finished and sold off that will bring new residents who could adopt a pride of place attitude. It is pleasing to find that landscaping is in place in some of the unfinished estates. It is positive to see trees planted here and there.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The road surfaces are quite bumpy in places and this was particularly so in the road into the Forest Park. Well trimmed grass margins on the roads leading into then town give a good impression of the locality and its people, and sturdy traditional stone walls have a permanent appearance and always look well. Some road signs, the responsibility of the county council, are badly faded and need attention. There was extensive road works taking place on the bridge that opens. The long stretches of footpaths especially out the roads making walking that much safer.

### **General Impression:**

You are making good progress in all the categories of the Tidy Towns competition. I felt that the centre of the town looked a bit drab with a lack of floral displays from most of the shops. It was a pleasure to visit Portumna.

