

## PORTARLINGTON

- Portarlington is an expanding town, to the north of County Laois and South East of Co. Offaly. With a population of 4001, an increase of 20% of 1996 figures.
- It is located on the N7 approximately 44 miles from Dublin, 17 miles from Tullamore, Co. Offaly and 11 miles from Portlaoise.
- Part of the town is located in County Laois while the remainder is located in County Offaly.
- There are no County Council or other government offices in the town at present.

### 1. Transport

- Portarlington is about 43 miles from Dublin city centre. It is 3 miles off the main Dublin/Cork/Limerick road, turning off at Monasterevin. By 2004 there will be a motorway/dual carriage way all the way from the M50/Naas dual carriage way.
- There is a railway station in Portarlington, serving Dublin Heuston, Cork; Tralee, Limerick, Ennis, Galway and Ballina/Westport. This is 1.25 miles from the town centre and is serviced with a car park and local taxi service.
- For reverse commuting from Dublin to Portarlington there are 15 direct trains between 7 am and 21 pm. – in particular there are trains to Portarlington at 7.30 (arr. 8.08), 9.40 (arr. 10.26) and 10.00 (arr. 10.52) and 12 direct trains back to Dublin between 8 am and midnight – in particular there are trains at 12.55 (arr. 13.20), 17.04 (arr. 17.56) and 17.22 (arr. 18.19).
- The nearest public airport is Dublin Airport
- There is one local bus operator who provides a service to and from Dublin.
- There is no bus service around the town
- There are taxis available both during the day and night
- There are parking facilities in the centre of the town.

### 2. Accommodation

#### To Purchase

- Almost 3000 new houses are built, in the process of being built or at planning stage in Portarlington. Houses cost from €190,000 for a four bedroom house; €165,000 for a three bed roomed house and €150,000 for a two bed roomed house.
- There are no apartments available in the town.

#### To Rent

- Houses can be rented at from €77.50 per week, and there is good availability.

Accommodation and other facilities are also available within about 20 kilometres at local towns including Naas, Newbridge, Kildare, Monasterevin, Edenderry, Tullamore, Mountmellick, Portlaoise, Stradbally, Vicarstown.

### **3. Business Facilities**

- There are no conference facilities in the town but the new third level centre will have video conferencing facilities available in the near future.

### **4. Hotels**

- East End Hotel, Main Street, Portarlinton Tel (0502) 42040
- Guesthouses and B&Bs.
- There are a number of B&Bs and Self-Catering properties in the area.
- The Heritage Golf and Country Club.  
This facility is located in Killenard village which is very close to Portarlinton. This championship golf course designed by Seve Ballesteros and Jeff Howes is a fantastic facility in County Laois with a state-of-the-art Clubhouse, Seve 'Natural Golf School', only the third of its kind in the World and an indoor and outdoor green bowls stadium - the indoor stadium is the only one of its kind in the Republic of Ireland. The luxury Heritage Country Club Hotel will be completed in 2005 and will have excellent Conference facilities and a state-of-the-art Spa and Therapy centre and health and leisure centre.

### **5. Shops and Shopping Centres**

There are three major shopping centres in Portlaoise. The largest is in the town centre with Tesco as the anchor tenant. There is also a shopping centre on the Mountmellick Road, with Dunnes Stores as the anchor tenant, and one on the Mountrath Road, with a smaller grocery element, and hardware and a furniture outlet on site.

In Portarlinton itself there is a Super Value supermarket, and a range of retail shops.

### **6. Eating Out**

There is a wide range of restaurants - 2 Chinese, 1 Indian, Italian Restaurants, Pizzeria, Fast Food outlets. There is also a public house at The Thatch in nearby Killenard which provides restaurant facilities. There are coffee shops - Matthews Bakery provides fresh scones / cakes tea / coffee all day.

### **7. Nightlife**

There are 2 Nightclubs in Portarlinton  
There is a variety of Pubs (about 28 in all) with pub events and quizzes.  
In the East End Hotel, there is live music every Sunday evening and Karaoke every Thursday evening which are very popular. There is no cinema or theatre the nearest being in Portlaoise.

## **8. Community and Sports Facilities**

For halls and sporting facilities available in Portarlington, see appendix attached:

The following sports clubs are available to new members:

GAA Clubs- Portarlington, Gracefield and Portarlington

Rugby- Portarlington RFC

Football-Arlington Soccer Club

Golf-Portarlington Golf Club ; New Heritage Golf Club Killenard

Parachuting Club- Clonbologue Co. Offaly

Treascon Riding Stables

There is also an Arts Group in Portarlington

## **9. Visitor Centres and cultural landmarks in Laois**

Portarlington has a strong Huguenot connection. The following are some cultural landmarks of interest to the county.:

- Lea Castle Portarlington
- Emo Court- House and Gardens
- Abbeyleix Heritage Centre
- Heywood Italian Gardens
- Rock of Dunamaise
- Donoghmore Museum
- Aghaboe Abbey
- Round Tower in Timahoe

## **10. Natural Environment**

Laois as a county has no direct access to the sea. The main area of environmental interest in the county is the Slieve Bloom area. There are details of the attractions of this area on the website <http://www.slievebloom.ie/> (click on name to access site). Laois has also some extensive boglands which are of environmental interest. The River Barrow runs through the county and there are several lakes in the area.

Laois has a wide range of natural amenities and beauty spots. These include the Slieve Blooms, esker ridges, limestone hills, heathland, woodlands and rivers.

Natural Heritage Areas in the county include

- Ballylynan
- Barrow Valley
- Cuffsborough
- Grantstown Lake
- The Curragh & Goul River Marsh
- Mannin Wood
- Slieve Bloom Mountains
- Emo Court
- Delour River
- Coolacurragh Wood
- Clonaslee Eskers & Derry Bog

- Ridge of Portlaoise
- Timahoe Esker
- Knockacoller Bog
- Derries Wood
- Coolrain Bog
- Annaghmore Lough Fen
- Kildeale Hill

### **Waymarked ways and trails**

Slieve Bloom Way

Durrow Leafy Loops

### **Nature Reserves**

*Grantstown Wood and Granston Lough: 48.6 ha. And Coolacurragh Wood: 8.5 ha.*

These reserves are situated about 8 km. west-north-west of Durrow, Co. Laois. They are rare examples of wet woodland on base-rich soils while Granstown Lough is a classic example of a lake which has gradually infilled through fen to alder carr. Established on 22 December, 1982. State owned.

*Slieve Bloom Mountains:* situated on the border of Co.s.Laois and Offaly (2,300 ha.) is an excellent example of mountain blanket bog. Established on 28 November, 1985. State owned.

*Timahoe Esker:* 1 km. north east of Timahoe, Co. Laois (13.5 ha). These are two of the few esker ridges left in the country, which still carry native woodland. Although extensively planted with conifers and other exotic species it is planned to expand the native woodland using appropriate management techniques. Established on 28 November, 1985. State owned.

### **Gardens (Gardens of Laois leaflet)**

Heywood Gardens, Ballinakill

Gash Gardens, Castletown

Abbey Sense Gardens, Abbeyleix

Emo Court Gardens

### **Walking Trails**

Laois Walks Festival (September)

Slieve Bloom Way (a waymarked way)

Loop walks

- Durrow
- Spink
- Slieve margy/Swan

Cullahill

## **11. Churches and Places of Worship**

RC Churches in Portarlinton and Killenard

Church of Ireland in Portarlinton, Lea Church and Cloneyhurk

There are also churches of other denominations in other parts of the county

## **12. Childcare**

Private Creche facilities are available in the town.

## **13. Education**

There are three primary schools in the town, in Portarlinton, Killenard and Cloneyhurk. There is one secondary school for both boys and girls, which was opened last year combining two other schools in the area. A small third level outreach centre started in the town this year. There is also a VEC school in the area which provides adult education courses.

The department of education should have information on the issue of spare capacity . There are new schools planned for the area, and recent increases in the population have put pressure on numbers in local schools.

## **14. Medical Facilities and Healthcare**

There is a medi-centre in the town, and a new health centre has started in Main Street. The local GPs are supported by MEDOC a new night service to address out of hours need for GP services. The local hospitals are in Portlaoise and Tullamore, and there is also a small hospital in Shaen which mainly deals with elderly patients. There are no health or beauty farms, but there are local hairdressers and beauticians.

## **15. Festivals**

- French Festival in Portarlinton every year
- Steam Rally in Stradbally each year

**APPENDIX**

<b>FACILITY</b>	<b>CONTACT</b>	<b>PHONE</b>	<b>COMMENT</b>
PORTARLINGTON G.A.A. HALL	MICHAEL LAWLOR, BISHOPS RD. PORTARLINGTON, CO. LAOIS	(0502) 23871	THIS FACILITY IS AVAILABLE TO MOST GROUPS
PORTARLINGTON COMMUNITY CENTRE , LINK RD. PORTARLINGTON, CO LAOIS.	MARY KEOGH, LINK RD. PORTARLINGTON, CO. LAOIS	(0502) 45728	THIS FACILITY IS AVAILABLE TO MOST GROUPS ONCE THEY HAVE THEIR OWN INSURANCE
PORTARLINGTON GOLF CLUB, GARYHINCH, PORTARLINGTON CO. LAOIS	JOHN O BRIEN, CORRIG, PORTARLINGTON CO. LAOIS	(0502) 23115 (GOLF CLUB) (0502) 40972 (H)	THE CLUB IS OPEN TO MEMBERS AND GUESTS. THE COURSE IS OPENTO MEMBERS, GREEN FEES AND SOCIETIES.
PORTARLINGTON LAWN TENNIS CLUB, STATION RD. PORTARLINGTON, CO. LAOIS.	ELENA O HORA, LEA RD. PORTARLINGTON, CO. LAOIS.	(0502) 23416	TO AVAIL OF THIS FACILITY YOU HAVE TO BE A MEMBER.
COLAISTE IOSAGAIN, PORTARLINGTON, CO. LAOIS.	MIRIAM HOLLAND, COLAISTE IOSAGAIN, PORTARLINGTON, CO. LAOIS.	(0502) 23407 (087) 2907762 (M)	THIS FACILITY IS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC ESPICALLY THELOCAL COMMUNITY
KILLENARD COMMUNITY CENTRE, KILLENARD, PORTARLINGTON, CO. LAOIS	MICK COBBE, KILLENARD PORTARLINGTON, CO. LAOIS.	(0502) 23248	THIS FACILITY IS AVAILABLE TO ALL GROUPS FOR PRIVATE HIRE. THIS FACILITY IS AVAILABLE TO MOST RELIABLE GROUPS FOR PRIVATE HIRE. IT ALSO CONTAINS SQUASH COURTS !!!!
HERITAGE GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB KILLENARD, CO. LAOIS	EDDIE DUNNE, KILLENARD, PORTARLINGTON, CO. LAOIS	(0502) 45994	MEMBERS, GREEN FEES, AND MEMBERS GUESTS.
PORTARLINGTON SWIMMING POOL, MAIN ST. PORTARLINGTON, CO. LAOIS.	NIALL MC ELWAINE, STATION RD, PORTARLINGTON, CO. LAOIS.	(0502) 23255 (H) (0502) 23149 (SWIMMING POOL)	THE POOL CAN BE BOOKED PRIVATELY. THERE IS ALSO PUBLIC SESSIONS AVAILABLE AND CLASSES ETC;
ST. BRIGIDS SOCIAL CLUB, CLONEYHURKE, CO. OFFALY.	SEAN DUNNE, GARYHINCH, PORTARLINGTON, CO. OFFALY.	(0502) 23098	THIS FACILITY IS AVAILABLE FOR BOOKING TO MOST GROUPS.

<b>FACILITY</b>	<b>CONTACT</b>	<b>PHONE</b>	<b>COMMENT</b>
PORTARLINGTON G.A.A. CLUB(PITCH) , MC CANN PK. PORTARLINGTON, CO. LAOIS	MICHAEL LAWLOR, BISHOPSWOOD RD. PORTARLINGTON, CO. LAOIS.	(0502) 23871	THE PITCH IS FOR G.A.A. USAGE ONLY.
ARLINGTON A.F.C. , CASTLE PK. LEA RD. PORTARLINGTON CO. LAOIS.	JACK KENNY, STATION RD. PORTARLINGTON, CO. LAOIS.	(0502) 23390	SOCCER USAGE ONLY
O'DEMPSEYS G.A.A. OLD POUND, BALLYBRITTAS, CO. LAOIS.	SEAMUS KEOGH, CHURCH RD. RATHMILES, CO. LAOIS.	(0502) 26376	BESIDES G.A.A. USAGE COMMUNITY MEETINGS, IRISH DANCING CLASSES, LADIES CLUB AVAIL OF THIS FACILITY. THIS FACILITY IS AVAILABLE FOR HIRE IF REQUIRED.
PORTARLINGTON R.F.C. LEA RD, PORTARLINGTON, CO. LAOIS.	BREDA OAKLEY, BRACKLONE ST. PORTARLINGTON, CO. LAOIS.	(087) 6267693	NOT AVAILABLE FOR PRIVATE HIRE. RUGBY USAGE ONLY.

The following are available in Portlaoise:

<b>FACILITY</b>	<b>CONTACT</b>	<b>PHONE</b>	<b>COMMENT</b>
PAR 3 GOLF COURSE, ABBEYLEIX RD. PORTLAOISE, CO. LAOIS.	PATRICK Mc EVOY, ABBEYLEIX RD. PORTLAOISE, CO. LAOIS.	(0502) 61557	PAY AND PLAY
ST. MARYS SPORTS HALL, BORRIS RD. PORTLAOISE, CO. LAOIS.	PAT CALLNAN, FERNDAL, DUBLIN RD. PORTLAOISE, CO. LAOIS.	(0502) 62169 (HALL) (0502) 22582 (H)	THIS FACILITY IS AVAILABLE FOR HIRE TO ALL RELIABLE GROUPS.
PORTLAOISE BOXING CLUB, BORRIS RD. PORTLAOISE, CO. LAOIS.	PAT RYAN, ABBEYLEIX RD. PORTLAOISE CO. LAOIS.	(0502) 61824	MAINLY USED BY THE LOCAL BOXING CLUB. THIS FACILITY IS ALSO USED BY OTHER GROUPS FOR FITNESS EG; THE LOCAL GIRLS SECONDRY SCHOOL. THIS FACILITY CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE TO GROUPS.
PORTLAOISE SWIMMING POOL, MONEYBALLY TYRRELL, PORTLAOISE, CO. LAOIS.	THERESE ALLEN, C/O PORTLAOISE SWIMMING POOL, PORTLAOISE, CO. LAOIS.	(0502) 21710	THIS FACILITY IS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC.

<b>FACILITY</b>	<b>CONTACT</b>	<b>PHONE</b>	<b>COMMENT</b>
HERITAGE HEALTH AND FITNESS CLUB PORTLAOISE, CO. LAOIS.	JOHN BOLTON (MANAGER) C/O THE HERITAGE HOTEL, PORTLAOISE, CO. LAOIS.	(0502) 71907 (0502) 40879	THE MEMBERSHIP AVAILABLE IS AS FOLLOWS : A- FULL MEMBERSHIP B- OFF PEAK MEMBERSHIP C- PAY AS YOU GO
ST. BRIGIDS AND ST. PAULS FIELD, BORRIS RD. PORTLAOISE, CO. LAOIS.	JOHN HAYES, 196 ST. BRIGIDS PL. PORTLAOISE CO. LAOIS.	(05020 63329	THIS FACILITY IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC , BUT THE GROUPS LOOKING TO AVAIL OF THIS FACILITY MUST HAVE THEIR OWN PUBLIC LIABILITY AND INSURANCE.
KILLESBIN HOTEL, DUBLIN RD. PORTLAOISE, CO. LAOIS.	VALARIE CASS, (MANAGERESS) C/O KILLESBIN HOTEL.	(0502) 21660	AT THIS FACILITY YOU HAVE TO BE A MEMBER OR GUEST OF A MEMBER.
THE MALTINGS HEALTH AND FITNESS CENTRE, BALLYFIN RD. PORTLAOISE, CO. LAOIS.	MARY HENNESSEY AND DEREK PHELAN KILMINCHY DUBLIN RD PORTLAOISE, CO. LAOIS.	(086) 8169466 (MARY) (086) 2625994 (DEREK)	TO AVAIL OF THIS FACILITY MEMBERSHIP IS REQUIRED. GUESTS ARE ALSO WELCOME AT A CERTAIN FEE PER SESSION.
PORTLAOISE RUGBY CLUB, TOGHER, PORTLAOISE CO. LAOIS.	MICK RIGNEY, C/O PORTLAOISE RUGBY CLUB, TOGHER, PORTLAOISE, CO. LAOIS.	(0502) 21017 (rugby club) (0502) 22388 (mick)	TO AVAIL OF THIS FACILITY YOU HAVE TO BE A MEMBER.
PORTLAOISE SOCCER CLUB, ROSSELIGHAN PARK, MOUNTMELICK RD. PORTLAOISE CO. LAOIS.	CHRIS NESTOR, THE HEATH, PORTLAOISE CO. LAOIS.	(087) 2254298	TO AVAIL OF THIS FACILITY YOU HAVE TO BE A MEMBER.
PORTLAOISE EQUESTRIAN CENTRE, NEW RD. PORTLAOISE, CO. LAOIS.	RONAN SHEEHAN, PORTLAOISE EQUESTRIAN CENTRE, NEW RD. PORTLAOISE, CO. LAOIS.	(05020 60880	TO AVAIL OF THIS FACILITY YOU HAVE TO BE A MEMBER. THIS FACILITY ALSO CATERS FOR SCHOOLS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.
LAOIS SNOOKER AND LEISURE CLUB, KELLYVILLE PORTLAOISE, CO. LAOIS.	OLIVER BARTLY C/O LAOIS SNOOKER AND LEISURE CLUB, PORTLAOISE, CO. LAOIS.	(0502) 21004 (SNOOKER CLUB) (0502) 62234(OLIVER)	OPEN TO PUBLIC
PORTLAOISE G.A.A. CLUB, CLONMINHAM INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, PORTLAOISE, CO. LAOIS.	ANDY MOLLOY, C/O PORTLAOISE G.A.A. CLUB.	(0502) 22272 (G.A.A. CLUB) (086) 8658007(ANDY)	THERE ARE NO CONDITIONS REGARDING THE FACILITY USAGE.

PORTLAOISE "ROLL n BOWL" CLONMINHAM INDUSTRIAL PARK, PORTLAOISE	BRENDAN/ANN ESAN, C/O ROLL N BOWL PORTLAOISE CO. LAOIS.	(0502) 28777	OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
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