

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **JOHNSTOWN**
County : **KILDARE**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 25-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19
Landscaping	40	32
The Built Environment	40	30
Litter Control	40	35
Tidiness	20	15
Residential Areas	30	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	300	228

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Welcome to the new format of the 1996 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your completed questionnaire and additional comments which were noted by the adjudicators. It is hoped that a satisfactory outcome results in relation to proposed developments. The adjudicator looks forward to the submission of your detailed five year work programme. In this, try to be as practical as possible, yet don't be afraid to experiment. You have a very attractive village - try to retain the character and ambience of the village atmosphere in any plans you propose.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The stream is a nice feature and it is good to see that it was not too manicured by the residential park, with wild plants noted on its banks complimented well by the Weeping Willows. Unfortunately, the duck was not noted at time of adjudication. Try to get the children involved in some of these environmental projects. There is potential for greater nature conservation, a good starting point would be to identify wildlife habitats in your catchment area and see what type of birds, animals and fish etc. these attract. You could invite local environmental experts and groups to advise you and provide you with specialist information you require.

LANDSCAPING

The presentation of the river bank by the bridge was very nice, with the Bamboo Shoots over the stream creating a nice affect. The grassed area outside the Garden Centre was very well maintained. Some of the grassed area opposite however was a bit over grown and took from the overall appearance here. Grass re-seeding (or an alternative) is needed by the seating area. The presentation of the rose bed was magnificent - congratulations! It really does give a very positive impression, helped by the presentation of residential premises to the background. The pump area was also well presented with the attractive stone container improving its appearance. The adjudicators also noted the new landscaping at the cul-de-sac, congratulations here, a very simple, yet very affective neat and tidy appearance, with nice planting noted. Good planting was also noted near the bridge adjacent to the residential estates. Overall, try to incorporate more tree planting throughout the village. There was a good presentation in the treatment of the graveyard grassed areas. Overall, a good presentation.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The majority of buildings are very neat and tidy. One notable exception being the white building which would have benefited from painting. The Johnstown Inn was very well presented with a lot of trees and shrubs noted outside. The entrance into the farm is another area that could be improved, as could the entrance into ADM - perhaps try to power hose the brick work here. The Conservatory Centre was also neat and tidy, as was Craft Spun Yarns, well done. One other area that could perhaps be improved would be the rear of the Johnstown Inn - its effect from the Motorway could definitely be improved and the removal of signs would also improve this appearance. Overall, there is room for improvement in this regard.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter was, unfortunately, quite bad by the seating near the bridge which took from the overall appearance. Also, sprinklings were noted by the wall of the Council yard. For a village this size, and in relation to its marking, you obviously will suffer from outbreaks of litter like this. The adjudicator noted that you have incorporated the children with the Junior Litter Control, well done.

TIDINESS

Generally, there is a very neat and tidy appearance throughout Johnstown this year, well done. While

some of the premises could be improved overall, the majority of them are well presented including residential areas. Try perhaps to paint and straighten the "Keep Johnstown Tidy" sign. The telephone kiosk was freshly painted, which was good to see. All grassed areas were well trimmed and well maintained, which left a positive impression. Some areas that might help improve the tidiness of the village, and are purely suggestions by the adjudicators, include the removal of overhead wires, the removal of the aerial from the Johnstown Inn, the installation of traditional lamp posts throughout the village. Some resurfacing and kerbing is also needed.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There was an excellent presentation throughout the village this year, well done to both the residential parks and the individual residential effort. Johnstown Cottage and the house opposite was very well presented. The cottages by the pump really create a very positive impression with their profusion of colour and planting and help to give the village of Johnstown its unique character. The adjudicators were also impressed with the presentation of the residential park with the Weeping Willows over the stream creating a nice affect. Overall, residents obviously have very strong pride in the presentation of their premises and is one which you should be proud of.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

On the approach road from the traffic lights, the grassed areas were very well maintained. At the cul-de-sac, congratulations, a very nice presentation here, with attractive planting, picnic area. A very neat and tidy appearance. Approaching Johnstown from the Irish Equine Centre, weeds by the kerbing at the triangle were noted which did not create a very positive impression, the verges could have been cut back also - room for improvement here. Overall, other areas were very well maintained, apart from the litter noted above.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Johnstown is one of the tidiest towns in County Kildare and is one you should be extremely proud of. Overall, there is good effort by all sectors and it was a pleasure to adjudicate this year. The adjudicator looks forward to further visits in years to come and further improvements and enhancements to Johnstown.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (13/08/96)

The tranquillity of the village and its lovely blend of old houses and mature landscape in the centre makes it a special place. The presentation of the village showed a high degree of co-operative effort. At the time of adjudication the village was practically, but not totally, litter-free. The necessary no parking bollards in the roadway around the Inn looked decidedly temporary, though their degraded plastic suggested otherwise. If they are, in effect, permanent, something less unsightly would be preferable. The cottages and their gardens were, as always, immaculate. Overall, the impression of the village is very positive.