

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre :                   **JOHNSTOWN**  
County :                   **KILKENNY**  
Category :                 **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 15-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15
Landscaping	40	31
The Built Environment	40	24
Litter Control	40	30
Tidiness	20	13
Residential Areas	30	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>199</b>

## Adjudicator's Comments

### OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The plans drawn up from now until 1998 are most impressive, especially in the first year of your entering for the Tidy Towns Competition. If the work goes as predicted, there ought to be further improvements next year when these projects can be assessed. You did not provide a village map (Section C of the questionnaire), please do so next year, it should be quite simple, naming the main features, and identifying locations of all projects completed or in progress. It is very good to read on the questionnaire that the Association has received much local encouragement, and that you are in contact with the local authority and have a FÁS worker employed, this might be increase from one to more?

### WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

This is a new heading in the Competition, and a nominal mark is being given to centres which do not yet have a project. Look around and consider how your village might benefit in terms of conservation of woodland, hedgerows, streams, or in encouraging wildlife, to creating signposted walks to places of interest.

### LANDSCAPING

Planting in the village square, as seen on adjudication day, is delightful, and a vast improvement on what was there before. Congratulations on the successful completion of this major work. Consider the planting of more shrubs and perennials (as well as annuals) as they last longer and require less maintenance. Consider tree planting on approach roads - especially on the Durrow Road which is rather bare.

### THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Both churches are well looked after, the Church of Ireland has a most unusual flamboyant Gothic doorcase - perhaps part of your development plan might be the erection of small permanent plaques explaining features such as this, and why the octagon was created in the way it is etc. The octagon is the most unique and attractive feature of Johnstown, a charming piece of village planning. Try to discourage plastic or mass-produced signs on old buildings - there is even one on Spa House and also replacement of Georgian windows with PVC frames, such as at the very handsome B&B. Window boxes on some premises were superb. The pink school and grounds were attractively presented, and the Veterinary Clinic first class. There are few, but unfortunately quite significantly placed derelict sites.

### LITTER CONTROL

There was some litter at the largest housing estate, and particularly in a fenced-off site near the Templemore-Rathdowney junction, and also at a site almost opposite the Garda station. The village centre was litter-free on adjudication day. Congratulations.

### TIDINESS

Some litter, some kerbside weed (where poison is used, the dead weeds still need to be removed). Discourage post-and-wire fencing as it is short-lived, and is difficult to keep free of weeds. Generally, it is the areas to east and west that untidiness of various kinds is to be seen.

### RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The older houses in the village are well looked after. The estate between the Templemore and Rathdowney Roads was reasonably neat, but the gardens mainly unadventurous. The two Georgian houses facing one another on the Urlingford Road are splendid. Floral displays on several individual houses looked delightful on adjudication day.

#### ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Road surfaces are good. Verges of the main approach roads are very well kept, but there is inconsistency in standards of fencing and boundaries on the Durrow Road. The roadside opposite the Church of Ireland would look much better grassed, as it is obviously difficult to keep it weed-free. Seating at the housing estate was in very poor condition. A barn near here is in need of tidying up.

#### GENERAL IMPRESSION

A village of immense charm, rapidly undergoing sympathetic development.