

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **VILLIERSTOWN**
County : **WATERFORD**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 03-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	23
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21
Landscaping	40	29
The Built Environment	40	26
Litter Control	40	28
Tidiness	20	14
Residential Areas	30	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	300	192

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Villierstown has a delightful sense of entity about it from the clear-cut entrance on the Cappoquin road to the extensive enclosure, promoted by the Green and the very well presented Main Street. The preservation of this sense of entity must be the overall primary objective of the Committee. The grass cutting, edge to edge of the village was a delight. Please use the existing flag poles and fly an appropriate flag. The weighting scales also offers an opportunity to make a small-scale feature, all adding interest to the overall centre.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The proximity to the River Blackwater is a major asset in this regard. The grassed areas and particularly the Green are a delight. The parking and picnic area at the Quay, together with the roadways leading to it, provide opportunities for the development of wildlife-friendly habitats. The bird bath on the stands at the Green are themselves pleasant. Although outside the centre, the major clean-up successfully completed on the Dromanna Drive is a credit to the Committee.

LANDSCAPING

The totality of the centre's landscaping is a delight. The green areas' grass and shrubs are particularly well presented as is the Link road to the Quayside. The presentation of the Green is full of interest. The concealment of those premises suffering dereliction is very well done by the creative in-painting of doorways and windows. The John Treacy plinth is an important addition to the landscaping of the centre.

Ground planting is preferable where possible rather than the use of tubs as is done for example at the base of the Church wall. More fulsome planting is recommended for best results. The superbly presented hedgerows and road verge all the way to the River was a commendable achievement. The landscaping development at the Y-junction between the Quay and the Clashmore road is applauded.

Along the Main Street kerbstone painting in black/white would strengthen the division between the wide road and the grassed areas.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Gate Lodge was a delightful entry point to this centre. Many of your character buildings are presented in bright and colourful paint and you have resisted the use of merely "safe" colours. Your success in this has contributed greatly to a vibrant centre. The skilful treatment of currently abandoned premises both on Main Street and on the Green is noted. The large house, the old Court House on the way to the Quay is very well presented. The National School, built in 1964, was very well presented and was again very well painted.

The attention to the vernacular built environment especially the dry-fill wall at the junction of Quay road/Clashmore road was a delight. The gradual refurbishment of dry-fill walls is encouraged.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter management was of a high order throughout the centre. Minor amounts noted at the Blackwater side Quay area. The litter bins were well sited and suitably designed.

TIDINESS

Villierstown does radiate a very pleasing sense of order and tidiness. The painted kerbstones were significant and of course the superbly presented and extensive cut grass areas. The Quayside seat had

been fixed. On the negative side attention is directed to the section of railing which has come adrift at the Cappoquin entrance gate and the pleasant signs at the Church area are showing damp and water damage disfigurement at their base.

There were small amounts of spoil at the side of the road. Finally, there is an air of clutter about the 8 signs at the Dungarvan/Clashmore road junction.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Housing stock at Villierstown as we have noted is extremely well presented. Houses by the Green were colourful, featuring individually delightful gardens which reflected the communal planting of the Green itself. On Main Street the window boxes and suitable signage contributed well to the total overall good impression.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

On all approach roads the village nameplate and speed limit signage was excellent, freshly painted and, where necessary verge grass appropriately cut back. On each road the ideal to aim for is to establish a clear-cut division between the rural surrounding countryside and the village itself. Very few centres can do this as effectively or as successfully as the entrance to Villierstown from Cappoquin.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Villierstown is a delightful, integrated, well presented Community with a justifiable pride in their centre which makes it a joy to visit and adjudicate.