

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 17-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	29
The Built Environment	40	24	24
Landscaping	40	32	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	15
Litter Control	40	31	30
Tidiness	20	14	13
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	29
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	206	199

Johnstown, Co. Kilkenny

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Johnstown is a delightful village and your overall development approach has been excellent. The secret for success is that you plan to do a certain amount each year within your financial and physical resources and do it to a high standard. Success in the Tidy Towns competition is not achieved overnight but is the result of constant and diligent work and careful attention to detail particularly during the adjudication period. This cannot be achieved without the involvement of your Local Authority, an active voluntary Committee and, where, possible, FAS and other agencies to provide physical help and advice. Funding is also important and it is nice to see that, in this respect, you have also achieved some success. You received an in-depth report from the adjudicator last year. The following comments should be read in conjunction with this report and acted upon where possible.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The comments made in last years in report equally apply this year. Your main buildings and commercial premises were excellently presented on adjudication day and again, congratulations to all concerned. To have the support of the owners of such premises be they churches, schools, Garda barracks or whatever, is a major plus in any Tidy Towns effort without which you cannot hope to succeed. The goodwill of the owners of commercial premises is equally important as, in most towns and villages, they constitute a major portion of property owners.

LANDSCAPING

To date the work which you have done has been excellent. Congratulations to all. It really looked splendid on adjudication day. Consider now the judicious planting of further trees and flowering shrubs. In the case of the latter try to plant those which will give you some colour on an-all-year-round basis. The emphasis however is on the word judicious as to do otherwise will only cause clutter where selective planting of trees and shrubs will enhance and soften the landscape. Again get the best advice you can from your Local Authority , Coillte or a qualified person.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

As explained in last years report this is a new heading in the competition with the emphasis on the preservation and enhancement of wildlife habitats including woodland, hedgerows and streams. When planning a wildlife project try to get the best advice you can by seeking assistance from your Local Authority and anyone else in your locality who is qualified in that direction. Perhaps you even have a member on your Committee. Your comments on the entry form regarding this aspect of the competition have been noted and we look forward to seeing the results of this and any other wildlife projects you undertake next year.

LITTER CONTROL

Johnstown was practically litter free on adjudication day. This is a remarkable achievement in a busy village and could set a headline for many other centres in the county. Congratulations.

TIDINESS

There was some evidence of weeding in the gutters on the Rathdowney road which took away from what otherwise was an exceptionally well presented village. However the adjudicator observed work being done on similar problems around the Square and can only assume that the Rathdowney road will be treated in due course.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

While the comments of last years adjudicator may still apply it was felt this year that there was an improvement and certainly private houses, in the main, looked excellent. If you have not already done so you should form residents associations in the housing estates and co-opt a member from each on to your Committee. Perhaps a small street/housing estate competition would also help and create a friendly rivalry to the betterment of the total effort.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

In the main these were excellent. Some verge cutting needs to be done particularly again on the Rathdowney road. However the current thinking is that this should not be done too closely to the hedge or wall and that a certain amount of grass verge should be left uncut for the purpose of the propagation of wild flowers. In other words, only cut half way back from the road verge to the fence. Road surfaces are excellent and practically in all cases were very well presented.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Excellent work is being done. Johnstown is a classic example of what could be done in most villages in Ireland.