

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 30-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	31
The Built Environment	40	25	24
Landscaping	40	32	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	32	31
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	29
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	210	206

Johnstown, County Kilkenny

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for the information sent with your entry form and for the map which was most useful on adjudication day it is gratifying to read that you now have the support of FAS, Kilkenny County Council, the ESB and , most importantly your local community in terms of effort and funding. Johnstown is doing extremely well in the competition an further success will come through careful planning and attention to detail. Plan to do a number of projects each year within your physical and financial resources using the best advice and help available to you. In this respect a three to five year plan is desirable. You do not need Consultants to draw this up for you. It can be very simply done in conjunction with your local authority and your community and will give you objectives to work towards. The following is by way of comment on your progress and should be read in conjunction with the 1996 and 1997 reports.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Both churches, your schools and the Garda station were particularly well presented. The Church of Ireland was visited and the excellent work carried out there was observed. Commercial premises were also very well presented and many congratulations are due to all concerned. It is noted however that there has been an increase in pavement advertising boards and the adjudicator would like to draw attention to the fact, in some cases, these can be a hazard to the disabled or people with short sight. Where possible this type of advertising should be discouraged.

LANDSCAPING

This is undoubtedly one of the strong points of the Johnstown Tidy Towns effort and is excellent. The Square in particular looked glorious on adjudication day and the new landscaping at St. Kierans Place, Kilkenny Road was also viewed. Tubs of flowers, hanging baskets and window boxes looked extremely well and are being well maintained. Comments made regarding landscaping in last year's report are still applicable and perhaps could be considered as part of any 3/5 year plan.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Your comments regarding the activities under this heading were noted and are to be encouraged. Please do however consider taking on a specific project for 1999. It will help to gain you additional marks in the competition. Again comments made last year are applicable particularly those with relation to seeking the best advice possible.

LITTER CONTROL

As last year Johnstown was practically litter free on adjudication day. Many congratulations to all concerned.

TIDINESS

The village was extremely well presented and is a remarkable achievement when the high level of traffic is considered.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

All housing and housing estates were observed, the majority of which were very well presented, some with excellent gardens in full bloom. This aspect of the competition is highly important and it is gratifying to note that a local competition is being held for the best kept residential area. As mentioned last year, try to co-opt representatives of these residential areas on to your committee.

ROADS, STREET AND BACK AREAS

Unfortunately approach roads to Johnstown were not well presented on adjudication day. Many were very much overgrown. It is appreciated that this is a very difficult matter to overcome. Perhaps you might be able to influence Kilkenny County Council to visit Johnstown at least once a year for the purpose of hedge and verge trimming. Please do however give consideration to the matters raised in last year's report regarding the propagation of wild flowers. Roads and pavements looked extremely well and appeared to be well maintained. Back streets perhaps could be looked at by those living there from a tidiness point of view, bearing in mind that adjudication takes place in the whole village and not just in the main street.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Johnstown is a lovely village with an old world atmosphere and excellent work has been done to preserve its environment. Keep in touch with your local authorities and other State bodies and also your Regional Tourism Authority based in Kilkenny who run an annual seminar for Tidy Towns groups with guest speakers and which is well worth attending. The adjudicator looks forward to returning to Johnstown again next year.