

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 12-07-99

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	35
The Built Environment	40	30	30
Landscaping	40	33	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	21
Litter Control	40	35	35
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	25	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	32
General Impression	10	7	8
TOTAL MARK	300	232	234

Johnstown, Co. Kildare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your entry form which is quite effective in describing the areas subject to judging in identifying problems. The three to five year plan, now a mandatory aspect of the competition, has not yet been presented and accordingly there is a reduction in marks in this category. However, the committee must be complemented on what they are doing and the entry form has been very informative in providing up to date understanding of the issues. A development plan is important for this village given the increased level of development that will happen over the next couple of years. As such it is hoped that this drop in marks is only temporary.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The new housing in Johnstown Manor is too early for consideration at present. However, the village does have some very fine old buildings that lend to the traditional village character. The cottages are beautifully displayed and are in balance with the village setting. It is noted that there is a problem with dereliction and perhaps the local authority can assist in ensuring that buildings are preserved. The roof to one of the buildings in question is in a bad state and the owners must ensure that this does not lead to further deterioration in the building as it would be almost impossible to replicate such a structure in a very sensitive terrace composition.

LANDSCAPING

The theme of roses in the village is very prominent and very successful in adding to the cottage flavour of the village. The garden centre could do more given its obvious role in the village and its significant impact with car parking. The small display of flowers at the base of the entry wall is rather disappointing given the high quality of plants for which this centre is known. On a last note, perhaps the strongest visual image of the village is the mature trees at the east entry point of the village, which are very effective marking the boundary of the village.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The property managed maintenance of the hedges and other spaces must be complemented as it maintains a sense of rural character during the summer months. The river which is bordered by salix, is very effective in maintaining wildlife habitat at the centre of the village. This should be explained within some type of document thus the need for a written

description on this category in a development plan is important.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter bins seem to be ensuring a litter free environment. However, given that there are very few sources of litter this category really should not pose a problem to the village.

TIDINESS

The village is very tidy even though road works by the county council were being carried out at the time of adjudication. The council yard is a bit too visible and though the covered seating area near the junction may look fine on a very sunny day, it could perhaps have a sharper image as the winter months must make this space look quite depressing.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There is very little residential development at present in Johnstown as can be seen from the category in which the village is entered. However, it would seem that this aspect is going to change significantly in the near future. The traditional cottages and terraced buildings at the eastern end of the village are very well maintained. However, the derelict premises may pose a problem if they are not tackled in the immediate future as new building could destroy the charm of the village. Dereliction needs to be dealt with through more than painting - you must look at the refurbishment of the building as it could be detrimental to the whole village.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Roads are very small scale in the village and this includes the existing junction leading up to the triangular area where new housing development will occur. Given the number of street improvements and access points for services at the time of the adjudication, this category cannot be fully assessed for this year.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Though roadworks were in place during the time of adjudication these were not viewed in a negative manner so as to reduce marks and as such were overlooked. The overall impression of the village is one of great charm with traditional techniques being employed. It is hoped that this approach will be maintained in future years.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (10/08/99)

It has to be admitted that this adjudicator was somewhat disappointed with the overall impression of Johnstown this

year. It is appreciated that a major new residential development is under construction but this is no excuse for neglect in other parts of the village. The triangle on the minor approach looked particularly scruffy. Similarly, the Dublin approach did not look its best this year. Most items of street furniture were in need of freshening up. Please do not let the standard slip further as Johnstown has for many years been known for its level of care and attention. Nonetheless the tremendous contribution made by many residents has been sustained. A work plan is definitely needed!