

*"Caring for our environment"*

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

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 12-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	33
The Built Environment	40	30	30
Landscaping	40	33	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	22
Litter Control	40	34	35
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	31
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>232</b>

## **Johnstown, County Kildare**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for your application form and map. A development plan is still required. This need not be detailed though should give a brief outline of what plans/ developments you have for the next 3/5 years. This is particularly important with the increase in new housing in the village and the resulting impact.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The buildings in Johnstown are generally well presented. They still retain a village character and are painted and maintained as such. Johnstown Centre had some fine landscaping and was well presented. Mediatec and Kildare Kitchens looked well. The judges are interested to see the developments of the proposed site of the new shopping centre – it would be good if the old characterful building could be utilised in some way though it depends on its condition. Boran looks well and is neat and tidy though ADM was less tidy. Grass had been recently cut, it looked as though this had not been done on a regular basis. The Johnstown Inn and adjacent buildings have a lot of character though some were better maintained than others. The cottage garden effect with flowers overflowing on to the paths was very effective. The Church could not be accessed unfortunately (the gate seemed stuck) though the front looked well and the decorative wrought iron railings were admired.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The picnic area in the cul de sac which is signposted had good fencing leading up to it. However both the seating and the adjacent litterbin required attention. The derelict cottage close by is crying out for an investor!. The seating beside the Johnstown Garden Centre required repainting however the pump in the centre of the village was well maintained. The seat and the litterbin beside the rosebeds in the centre of the village also required attention. The white bollards outside the church (they look like concrete traffic cones) should be either removed or painted.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The stream close to the garden centre is well kept and the water is crystal clear. The seating looked well here. There is great potential to develop and manage this stream as it travels up the road. There are some plants related to an aquatic habitat though more such as irises and rushes could be considered for various parts of the stream. This area should

be addressed as part of your plan.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter was evident outside the Johnstown Inn, otherwise the village seemed quite litterfree. Litterbins did need attention in some places such as the brown bin near the telephone box. Other bins such as that in the estate on the Punchestown road were well kept. Do remember to include bins in the new housing developments.

### **TIDINESS**

It is difficult to present a village when there is so much work/development and related traffic impacting on the village. The judges noticed a number of traffic cones – though some of these were in areas where there did not seem to be development. The poor presentation of the Punchestown road did not contribute to the tidiness of the village.

### **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The new development of Johnstown Manor had some fine landscaping and this will hopefully integrate the residential estate further into the surrounding rural hinterland as time goes on. The estate did require some litterbins though. The cottages in the village were charming, well presented and have complementary planting. The original windows in many cases contribute greatly to their visual impact. Furness Manor though only presently being developed extends the village out into the countryside and this must be considered for future tidy town initiatives. The houses on the Punchestown road looked well and the baskets and boxes on the row of houses opposite the cottages in the main street must be complemented as they made a great impact.

### **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

The Punchestown road was well cut back near the village though work is still required further out near the triangle. At this level of the competition, extra effort is required. A feature could be made of this triangle of grass – perhaps cut back neatly and some low lying shrubs of a stand of native perennials such as foxgloves/ montbretia/ honey suckle would look well. Some rose and daisies in this area were nice addition to the adjacent hedgerow. The Dublin approach through the trees was very well down. The new wheelchair access to the bus stop and the traffic calming measures are highly commendable.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Johnstown has the potential to do very well. A plan is

required - valuable points can be picked up here. The wildlife section is also another area where points can be picked up. However, in addressing these issues do not let the more mundane such as litter eradication, painting of premises and approach roads slide away for you- best of luck with future endeavours.

### **SECOND ADJUDICATION (08/08/00)**

Largely due to the persistent efforts of the Residents' Association, Johnstown manages to retain its enviable village character, while newer housing has been confined to side roads, is well kept, and does not as yet conflict with the traditional nature of the village. As in many other villages throughout the country, the unusual amount of construction work creates its own problems, and positive assessments would be premature until completed results can be seen. It is noted that some road surfaces are in need of improvement. An appreciable amount of litter was seen on the second adjudication day – this is unusual for a small community, where residents are usually careful about dropping litter and quick to see that whatever littering has been done is removed.