

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 15-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	34
The Built Environment	40	29	29
Landscaping	40	36	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	21
Litter Control	40	31	30
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	28
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	228	222

Villierstown, County Waterford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

A fascinating planned village; probably the most important, and certainly the best preserved, of its period in the country. Documentation provided shows admirable and intense concern for the village's future on the part of the Community Council, and a firm desire to develop it in the 21st century while maintaining the unique infrastructure. The Development Plan, now in its second year, is clearly providing a focus for annual achievements; your candid notes where deadlines have not been entirely met are appreciated, but it is far from unusual for delays of the kind you mention to occur.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

(Some of the items mentioned on your entry-form may appear under 'Roads, etc' below.) While the townscape has to be considered as a whole, there are certain features which stand out: the most significant is the Church. Decently preserved as an interdenominational centre, it does not appear to be much in use. It would be ideally suited to a permanent Exhibition on the subject of the Planned Village in Ireland (e.g. Bessbrook, Sion Mills, Tyrrellspass, Glaslough, etc etc). There is an immense amount of material available in private and public archives, and the topic is now of general interest. Such a display should cause visitors to pause rather than pass through, and there could be the eventual spin-off effect of people buying and restoring properties, as has happened elsewhere. (Villierstown is somewhat under-promoted at present, unlike Adare, Ardagh, Ardmore etc.) Apart from the several unfortunately vacant or derelict houses, those which remain are generally well tended. The various stone monuments are beautifully maintained.

LANDSCAPING

Extensive grassed areas were beautifully trim on the date of the visit. Trees are well tended – it is wonderful to see such handsome limes. The herbaceous beds at the foot of The Green were quite dazzling: you will appreciate that there are many contenders for the Landscaping award, and should you not succeed this year you should enter a reminder on the form in 2001.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The reopening of the Rock Walk, with its proposed signage and conservation area, now under development by the

river, is looked forward to. The Quay and river precincts are maintained and planted in a way that is sympathetic to the nature of the place. It is understood from the documentation that we may expect advances under this heading in the near future.

LITTER CONTROL

This, if anything, was even more effective than last year. It is of course a variable from day to day, but it is obvious that your campaign is working well.

TIDINESS

As a general picture, Villierstown looks very tidy indeed – mainly due to the superb maintenance of lawns. Dereliction, unfortunately, militates against the impression at certain significant points. Very serious discussion with owners, and the Local Authority, should take place before the dread term ‘demolition’ should be used; this adjudicator does feel that perhaps some of the smaller abandoned structures in The Green area should be removed, if there is complete failure to find those who will reinstate them. The garage does not help in the drive for tidiness, and this year there was work-in-progress by the crossroads.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The whole of Villierstown is residential. The houses from the past two centuries are, architecturally speaking, a joy in their design and their relationships with one another. (Dereliction has been treated above.) Among older public buildings altered for residential use, the Old Court House is a fine example. Large country houses and farms generally enhance the landscape. The new estate under construction on the Quay road is exceptionally disappointing; it is of the dreariest possible design and relates in no sense to the local building tradition.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Road surfaces are good, and the approaches to the village are trim. The approach via the woodlands of the Dromana drive and the entry through the estate gates, from abundant nature to equally abundant man-made systemisation, is quite an experience. The recently completed paving of the Square is most effective. The stone wall on the AGLISH road is going to improve this area immensely. Attractive white palings were favourably noted nearby. This adjudicator does not admire the black-and-white kerb, but they are certainly very neat. Public seating is good. When the responsible bodies get down to removing the wirescape they will have done a splendid service.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A village of unique design, where the community is making valiant and valuable efforts to ensure continuity of excellence. Good wishes to the Community Council, the residents, and the local and national bodies which are providing support.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (10/08/00)

Villierstown looked exceptionally well on the day of second adjudication; there was no litter in evidence throughout the village and there was an overall ambience of tidiness. Historic buildings and monuments were presented to a very high standard and numerous incidental areas were nicely landscaped. The new footpath out the Dungarvan Road was noted and the loose natural stone wall at the top of the Quay Road and onto the Main Street was admired. The Quay area was also very well presented with its newly painted concrete post fencing. This area is one of great scenic beauty and your plan to link it to the village centre via the Rock Walk along the foreshore area incorporating the old Sailors Rock is very much admired; this adjudicator looks forward to taking the walk at some time in the future. The rope fencing around the two greens near the entrance to the Dromina Drive should be replaced by a more permanent fixture. More of the old stone wall underneath the hedgerow out the Dungarvan Road might be revealed and highlighted. It is sincerely hoped that new housing developments in the village will be kept to a modest scale so as not to destroy forever the tranquil beauty of your lovely village and quayside. Congratulations on a fine presentation this year.