

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **VILLIERSTOWN**
County : **WATERFORD**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 14-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	35
The Built Environment	40	29	29
Landscaping	40	37	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	22
Litter Control	40	33	32
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	30
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	233	230

Villierstown, County Waterford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for all the material sent with your entry form and the map which was most useful on adjudication day. Your continued good work with Waterford County Council, FÁS, your Local School and your Community is again very evident. Comments regarding the production of a 3/5 year Development Plan, mentioned last year under this heading, are still applicable. Such a plan need not be elaborate or expensive, but should identify what needs to be done on an environmental basis and what you realistically can take on board. While some new innovations were noted this year the emphasis, nevertheless, appears to be on maintenance. This, of course, is vitally important and must never be ignored, but if Villierstown is to progress in the competition new and innovative projects will need to be looked to gain additional marks.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Church and the Cemetery were again very well presented as were the monuments in the village. Dromana gate entrance which, last year was painted, probably now needs cleaning. The School also looked well as did the Millennium Stone. The John Treacy plaque needs refurbishing. The Community Centre is a very fine amenity to have and is also being well maintained. Unfortunately you still have a number of derelict sites and your comments in this respect have been noted.

LANDSCAPING

New landscaping was noted and looked very well. The Green area was, as usual, a blaze of colour and is a credit to those who look after it. Flowers and shrubs planted throughout the village create a wonderful ambience unmatched in many other centres. Well done to all concerned.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Your ongoing negotiations regarding Rock Walk are noted as are those regarding The Quay. The latter is a lovely amenity area which could be further enhanced with a wildlife project. The open space there and seating are being well maintained.

LITTER CONTROL

Villierstown was practically litter free on adjudication day. Tremendous credit is due to all concerned.

TIDINESS

There were no untidy areas to be seen in Villierstown this year which again is a credit to

your Committee and Residents and clearly illustrates their interest in the living environment. This, together with pleasant landscaping, creates a unique atmosphere not seen in many towns and villages throughout the country.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Work at Woodview Close was noted and will be a great addition to the village when it is finished. The River View housing estate is maturing nicely and its open spaces are being reasonably well maintained. Painting throughout the village seems to have improved. Most houses looked extremely well. Many had gardens in full bloom, which were a delight to see and a credit to their owners. In a small village this type of co-operation is absolutely essential.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The new road surfaces and pathways in the village were noted and are a credit to Waterford County Council. The Quay area looked well. The junction sign on the approach road from Dungarvan seemed point towards the wrong direction.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Overall Villierstown continues to maintain a wonderful ambience and is always a joy to visit. In the event of you producing a 3/5 year plan, please enclose a copy with your entry next year so that the Adjudicator can see it. Congratulations to all concerned.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (03/08/02)

Essentially conceived as an architectural set-piece, it is ironic that in the 21st century, Villierstown's building stock should take second place to its natural amenities. Were it not for the neglect of its wonderful buildings, Villierstown would at present be at the very top of the national awards in this competition. (Incidentally, have you contacted the County Council, which is empowered to take action against derelict buildings? Two years ago this adjudicator expressed concern that the, then, proposed new estates would be peripheral to village life and unrelated to traditional local design. Now that these homes are occupied they are neat and well looked after, yet the basic issue remains: what is needed in planning and aesthetic terms is renewal and replacement of the village core. All this will be stale news to the Community Council, but it is striking none the less, and says little for the approach of official planners and commercial developers. Congratulations to you on what has been done to date and on the excellent achievement under other headings.