

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Villierstown**

Ref: **728**

County: **Waterford**

Mark: **235**

Category: **B**

Date: **08/08/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
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	34	33
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	31
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	235	233

Overall Developmental Approach:

It is gratifying to read that you have the support of your local authority, FÁS employees, your local school and of course your residents for your efforts. The loss of your FÁS employees would indeed be a blow. Hopefully this will not happen. Thank you for all the information sent with the entry form and for the map which were invaluable on adjudication day. Previous adjudicators have referred to the drawing up of a three/five year plan. Perhaps in your present circumstances a plan is required which could then be presented to FÁS and other agencies to strengthen your hand in terms of maintaining existing help and lobbying for future assistance. An excellent job has been done again this year in maintaining what you have but it does mean that in terms of shortfalls, what is mentioned in last years report is still applicable.

The Built Environment:

The Church and Cemetery again looked well as indeed did Dromana gate. In the case of the latter however the railing needs repairing. The Community Centre and School are fine buildings that have been well maintained. The Millennium Stone and the monument are nicely presented but comments regarding the John Tracey plaque stated in last years report are still applicable. Derelict sites continue to be a problem. Do appreciate that your local authorities do have powers under the Derelict Sites Act to investigate these problems for you and, if necessary, take action.

Landscaping:

Trees and shrubs planted throughout the village in the past are now maturing very nicely and create a wonderful ambience. The Green area is outstanding and reflects great credit on all concerned. As part of any future plan try to identify other areas in the village where trees and shrubs could be planted which would give you some colour on an all-year-round basis.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Quay area is being well maintained and would be an ideal spot for a wildlife project. On adjudication day, at the Quay, a party of school children was noted which would strongly suggest that perhaps a school project could be undertaken there which would provide nesting boxes, feeding tables, a wildlife information board etc which would be of great interest to locals and visitors alike. Perhaps there is somebody in your area who is knowledgeable on this subject but in the event you should contact Duchas.

Litter Control:

Villierstown was again practically litter free on adjudication day. This reflects greatly on the work of your FÁS workers, your school and indeed your local residents and their interest in preserving their environment. Well done to all concerned.

Tidiness:

The unique atmosphere in Villierstown is greatly enhanced by its tidy appearance which was again evident this year. There was nothing to be seen "out of place" and again, great credit is due to your village population.

Residential Areas:

Woodview Close and Riverview Estate seem to be completed. In the case of Riverview Estate open spaces are being nicely maintained and some nice landscape was to be seen. Woodview Close has some large open spaces which, in the main, are being well maintained but could do with some landscaping – which will probably come. Where new estates are built open spaces are generally provided but maintenance of them is very often beyond the capabilities of a local Tidy Town Committee. The establishment of Resident Associations therefore is important with representatives sitting on your committee. Individual houses again looked extremely well this year with lovely gardens in full bloom which add considerably to the total landscaping aspect. Congratulations to the many householders concerned.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Road surfaces and pathways are being well maintained. Approach roads looked well and in some cases had been strimmed. Approach roads are important and should be strimmed regularly throughout the summer. Their appearance tends to set the tone for the rest of the village.

General Impression:

Villierstown is a lovely village and will continue as such as long your committee and other interested parties continue to service its environmental needs. Derelict sites are indeed a problem and some effort should be made to solve this once and for all. The village has reached a reasonably high mark in the competition. Further marks will be had through careful planning and attention to detail which will hopefully be the hallmark of future Tidy Town activities in the village. In the mean time keep up the good work.

Second Round Adjudication:

It was disheartening to read that you would withdraw from future entries were the FAS employees not available – surely out of a population of 370 there is a sufficient number who could take on community projects as is the norm in so many towns and villages up and down the country. The approach roads were reasonable well presented with the Dungarvan looking best. The gated entrance from Cappoquin make a wonderful statement. Litter control again was commendably to a high standard. There were some exceptional gardens to be seen which contribute to the open nature of the village comprising greens and a street of classical proportions. It is important to retain up and down sash windows in a classical village – it should be noted that it is relatively easy to render such windows draught proof nowadays. Every new development should made reference to the formal village plan. Please try to encourage more of the community to take an active part in the enhancement of their village!