

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Johnstown**

Ref: **129**

County: **Kilkenny**

Mark: **230**

Category: **B**

Date: **13/01/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	35
The Built Environment	40	32	30
Landscaping	40	34	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	32	32
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	33	33
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	230	228

Overall Developmental Approach:

Your three year plan seemed quite brief and was also in extremely large print! You give no indication as to when you intend to achieve your objectives. More detail will be required for next year's competition. The adjudicator was disappointed to note that you had left the wildlife section of the application form blank, particularly given the comments made by last year's adjudicator. The planned by-pass will certainly make a difference to the character and nature of the village.

The Built Environment:

Buildings throughout the village were generally well maintained. The Catholic Church looked very well - perhaps the car park area could benefit from a landscaping project in the future? In terms of commercial premises, of note were the Spa Bar, the Ouncel, Sharkey's Shop, Delaney's, the Snack Shack and the Old Main Road. The National School has achieved green flag status which is to be highly commended. Its beautifully maintained grounds and brick building were admired. The boundary wall of the cemetery was in bare concrete block and it is suggested that either this is painted or perhaps a creeper is planted to the front, to soften its somewhat grim appearance. Do bear in mind that render should not be removed from traditional Irish vernacular village houses in order to expose the stonework underneath, as this can cause problems not only from a water penetration point of view but also from a conservation one. The Garda Station looked well but its boundary wall will need painting before next year's competition, as will that to the Telecom Eireann sub-station. The Church of Ireland looked well. Hopefully its tree planting will mature soon, as it

appears to have been recently planted.

Landscaping:

A creeper had been planted at the hand ball alley and is growing up the wall - its future development is eagerly anticipated. The dished floral presentations throughout the village were admired. The magnificently maintained central square with its neatly cut grass, attractively planted beds of flowers, mature trees and timber benches was greatly admired. Perhaps another landscape project could be considered at Roadmaster - maybe some trees planted behind the fence? Spa View Veterinary Clinic was well maintained with attractive stone wall and planting. The attractive tree planting on the Kilkenny Road to the semi detached houses in this location was also admired.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

As previously noted, the adjudicator was disappointed to see that you had left this section of the application form blank, particularly given the comments made by the last year's adjudicator in this regard! Do consult your Tidy Towns Handbook in order to benefit from the information contained within it in order to develop of this aspect of the competition further.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day was generally quite good, given the busy nature of the village. Only a few papers were noted on the Cork and Templemore sides of the village.

Tidiness:

Do ensure that tin roofs to outbuildings are not neglected when considering overall presentation. These should be painted in their traditional red or green colours. Barbed wire fences created a bad impression - these should be replaced with indigenous hedging in beech or hawthorn or natural stone walling. Do ensure that gable walls are not neglected when considering overall presentation. A broken stone wall on the Cork side of the village should be repaired before next year's competition. A boarded - up house in brick on the Cork side of the village looked unfortunate. Generally, however, despite these minor items, the village looked well cared for and neatly maintained on adjudication day.

Residential Areas:

For the most part, houses were well maintained. Of note, was the freshly - painted yellow bungalow on the Dublin Road as was the attractive B&B in this location. A charming house with its original sash windows on the Cork Road was admired. The two creeper - clad houses on each side of this road were also greatly admired - one with an attractive stone boundary wall. A number of the houses on the Templemore Road could have been presented to a higher standard. The attractive houses with freshly painted boundary walls on the Kilkenny Road were greatly admired.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Roadsides as mentioned by last year's adjudicator are a credit to all concerned. On the Dublin Road, the verges and hedgerows were generally well maintained, although a little bit inconsistent in places. Advertising hoardings are a distinct problem on both the Cork and Dublin sides of the village, as they give roadsides a rather cluttered appearance. The attractive planting at the Rathdowney / Templemore Road junctions was admired - although the speed limit sign in the latter location was quite faded. On the Kilkenny Road it was quite overgrown at the village nameplate sign.

General Impression:

Johnstown is an extremely busy village, located as it is on the main Dublin/Cork Road. Despite the obvious problems associated with this situation, it continues to perform extremely well in the competition. Well done to all concerned.