

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Johnstown**

Ref: **91**

County: **Kildare**

Mark: **220**

Category: **A**

Date: **01/06/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	
The Built Environment	40	32	
Landscaping	40	34	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	
Litter Control	40	30	
Tidiness	20	14	
Residential Areas	30	26	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	
General Impression	10	6	
TOTAL MARK	300	220	

Overall Developmental Approach:

Johnstown is in a complete limbo situation this year with such drastic work proceeding in the village. It is understandable that it would be difficult to present a plan in these circumstances. It is wise to keep as much as is possible in good order through the village. This is being done particularly in the housing estates where there is no disruption. The village centre will be greatly enhanced when all the work is completed and this village will bounce back well. The marking in the various categories must reflect the situation this year but please do not be discouraged by this as the work is temporary in nature and a successful conclusion will result from all the chaos.

The Built Environment:

The business and residential houses in the main street of the village are well cared for except for some derelict buildings – notably the buildings beside the Victorian Garden premises. The terraced cottages look well and the new shops. At the St. Johns Grove estate the shop premises are well presented. The attractive walls in the village are noteworthy. The walls at the roadside approaches to St. Johns Grove and the Furness Manor look extremely well. The old walls in the village Main Street will become more prominent in the new scheme and perhaps emphasising these could become an issue in the next plan.

Landscaping:

Excellent landscaping in the housing estates and at their entrances forms an important part of the landscape of the entire village. The Furness Manor estate is very well planted with trees and well-tended grass being kernel to the scheme. Attractive paving and shrub planting enhances this further. The planting to the front of Johnstown Garden estate also contributes very well to the village landscape. Where large greens exist – as at St. Johns Grove there is an opportunity to plant trees of the larger types – a small number of oak, ash, beech, lime and sycamore would add great character to a green and would be a marvelous legacy to leave for the next few generations. The large trees at the road frontage of Johnstown Gardens estate illustrate this well. The dramatic two Palms at the Victoria Garden premises were noted. The seating area at the small bridge on the main street beside the garden centre has fallen into neglect. The landscaping at the Boron premises looks well. The ADM Londis premises landscaping is in need of attention.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

When all developmental work is complete and a new tidy towns plan is being formed a wildlife appreciation project should be high on the list of priorities. The river offers interesting potential as well as nearby rural walks in this regard.

Litter Control:

Litter control appears to have broken down with the on going development work. The area by the stream beside the garden centre is very badly littered and also litter along the main street seems to have taken hold. Even in the present disruptive circumstances it is wise to keep litter at bay because it is difficult to gather all the litter when it accumulates and starts decomposing. The recycle bins are prominently places and hopefully are well used in this position. The housing estates are very clean of litter and good work is in progress there in keeping litter under control.

Tidiness:

The road triangle at the junction for Weston farm and Punchestown appears to be neglected and has an untidy appearance. The back areas around the shops at St. Johns Grove appear untidy and some kerb weeds in that vicinity give a uncared for appearance. As regards the main area of the village centre – it is unavoidable that the state of the place exists as it does now with all the work – but this will all have a positive outcome.

Residential Areas:

The housing estates look particularly well and as commented on above – the entrances, open greens and individual gardens contribute greatly to the total scene. Well cared for grass and tree planting form the fabric of all-good landscaping. Individual houses along the roadside contribute well to the village appearance and great credit is due to individuals who work away on their own properties and in doing so contribute to the overall good.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Road works are obviously unavoidable at the moment and it hardly fair to make comments here. The roadways in the housing estates are in very good condition and the approach roads from the motorway no doubt will be finished to a very high standard.

General Impression:

Johnstown has always been a prominent contributor to the standards in the tidy towns competition and when all the work is completed both the identity and the good standards will be reinstated.

