

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Johnstown** Ref: **396**
County: **Kilkenny** Mark: **225**
Category: **B** Date(s): **25/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	17
Litter Control	50	28
Waste Minimisation	20	3
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	225

Overall Development Approach:

Johnstown is welcome to the 2006 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission this year. The village is located on a busy national primary route (N7) against the backdrop low hills and scenic views however not much notice can be taken of these in daily life on the main street with the pressure of traffic. We note that you engage with students in transition year and that you gain the co-operation of the wider community via your parish new letter; no doubt this is the reason for the good community involvement which has increased your score over the last number of years.

The Built Environment:

Discourage the use of stickers and posters in windows and doors of shops such is that at the Morrissey's Newsagent; the Macari Take Away sign is much too large for the premises and should be removed altogether or be replaced by a smaller one; the Spa Public House is in need of refurbishment to its roadside edge. The Heirloom Antiques premises have some fine traditional architectural features, which hopefully will be retained upon refurbishment. The Garda station together with its boundary wall had been freshly painted and looked wonderful. The Church of Ireland and graveyard looked quite stately.

Landscaping:

Your landscaped green at the crossroads is an essential characteristic feature of your lovely village and looked magnificent on the of adjudication the wild grass verges outside of the church are being neatly maintained the lovely flower displays were noted at various points around the village especially at the M. Morrissey Public house, perhaps container plants can be featured on the median reservations. The stand of silverbirch trees out the road beyond the Church of Ireland church look quite magnificent.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Trees are suggested for behind the wall of the graveyard both to provide greater visual enclosure and enhance visual amenity but also to provide new wildlife habitat. The neatly maintained hedgerow near the Church of Ireland and at other locations within the village do provide important habitats. We will be interested to hear of the outcome of your discussions with the Barrow, Nore and Suir Development Organisation, and to check your progress in future years on your planned nature walks.

Litter Control:

Well done to the transition year students in their participation in litter clean ups; local residents are to be commended also in this respect, we wish you well in the acquisition of additional litterbins and all of your planned activities under this heading. Litter was noted on the left-hand side of the road on the southern entrance in to the village.

Waste Minimisation:

Congratulations to the local school for its Green Flag status. To compete successfully under this heading you will need to develop creative ways of minimising waste rather than simply taking recycling measures; perhaps a good place to start would be to circularise residents and the business community with a leaflet drop or through the parish newsletter.

Tidiness:

Some dumping of materials was noted at the recycling point, which is a pity. An area of untidiness was noted out the Templemore Road just around the No Dumping sign. The overall appearance of Johnstown is one of tidiness.

Residential Areas:

Hopefully the vacant house with its traditional architectural features of its period located on the southern entrance to the village will retain these features on refurbishment. Residential developments out the road past the Church of Ireland are presented to a very high standard and look wonderful. The residential development off the Tullamore Road needs some work in relation boundary fences in places. A new residential development was in the construction phase on the northern entrance to the village at the time of adjudication; new residents should be welcomed to the community and invited to join in the Tidy Towns initiative.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The pedestrian facilities within Johnstown are quite good and a good well-surfaced path was noted at the southern entrance together with the hard shoulder; generally road surfaces and footpaths through out the village are in a good state of repair. It was a pleasure to note the wirescape free aspect of Johnstown and your public lighting on attractive lampstandards.

General Impression:

The village appears rightly proud of its lovely environment and the proposed new motorway should make life that little bit easier and gives residents time to smell the roses.