

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Johnstown** Ref: **370**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **236**
Category: **C** Date(s): **15/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	31
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	23
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	236

Overall Development Approach:

Johnstown is welcome to the 2007 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission. We note the lack of a planned work programme however you have given a good account of this and we look forward to the receipt of this in future years. A number of development sites had work in progress so Johnstown is not complete and this report is therefore not conclusive. Your fun evenings no doubt elicit the help of younger people and will encourage them to participate when they are older. Your History of Johnstown talks sound interesting and we look forward to seeing this as an important element of your submission in years to come. Well done also on your partnership with Kildare County Council and An Taisce.

The Built Environment:

Congratulations on the redevelopment of the derelict two storey building, it looks superb and complements its surroundings. We look forward to the redevelopment of the site of the old Garden Centre and appreciate that the committee's hands are tied in this respect. The Johnstown Inn and adjoining Coach House Yard are presented to the highest standard and it is good to note the sash windows on the latter premises.

Landscaping:

Mature trees throughout Johnstown have a stately appearance and it is good to note that younger trees have established themselves well. Numerous saplings have been planted particularly on verges leading to the roundabout. Hopefully the majority of these will thrive. The traffic island at the junction of the Naas/Punchestown Roads should now be landscaped. Take care to ensure that planting on the riverbank is of native species as this will be supportive of wildlife. Your green areas are being beautifully maintained.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Commiserations are due in respect of vandalism to your beautiful graveyard; we admire how you coped with this and for the designation of a wildlife area behind the church. Verges of approach roads of the Naas/Punchestown Road were overgrown and featured many wild flowers. Perhaps a wildflower survey would be appropriate? Have you considered a bird count or other wildlife initiatives?

Litter Control:

No doubt your litter picking evenings make an important contribution to the excellent standard of litter control in Johnstown. You are aware of areas where control needs to be strengthened and the verges along the road to the Naas roundabout looked a little littered during adjudication. Some sacks were noted together with newspaper.

Waste Minimisation:

Your recycling point was neat in presentation on adjudication day. Well done. We note that you use the bags for segregating litter which are provided by An Taisce and we commend you for this. Be creative in looking for ideas to reduce the amount of waste produced by the community. Perhaps the local business community could be involved in this initiative.

Tidiness:

A certain amount of untidiness was generated by a number of development sites in Johnstown and the adjudicator is confident that these will disappear on the completion of construction work. Well done on the clearing of rubble outside of the graveyard and not allowing it to sit indefinitely. Weeds were noted in a number of places especially at the entrance to the old Garden Centre. Perhaps these could be removed by the committee as it lies in a prominent position outside of the gate. The village was mostly wirescape free with not too many unsightly overhead service cables. No doubt those remaining will be ducted in due course.

Residential Areas:

The housing development located behind the Centra premises is presented to an excellent standard in respect of its greens, verges, trees, shrubberies and presentation of drives. Older housing developments in the community were admired especially the charming single storey cottages in the village centre. Furness Manor appears like an oasis in the midst of the overgrown road verges along the Naas/Punchestown Road. It is good to note that householders are encouraged to keep the area outside of their boundary walls litter free.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Car parking is quite orderly throughout Johnstown and road and footpath surfaces are generally quite good. A number of items of street furniture were in need of refurbishment particularly bollards, bins, and public seating. The traffic island at the Naas /Punchestown Road has already been referred to above and at the time of adjudication signs on approach roads did not present a problem.

General Impression:

Johnstown is an attractive village with handsome features; the community appears committed to maintaining their homeplace free of litter, untidiness and problems caused by vandals.