

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Johnstown** Ref: **370**  
County: **Kildare** Mark: **251**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **07/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	32
The Built Environment	50	37
Landscaping	50	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	24
Litter Control	50	31
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	31
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>251</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Thank you to Johnstown for your entry to TidyTowns 2008-07-29 You have a large committee for a small village. This shows great involvement. Your broader community is also prepared to get involved. 50 volunteers is excellent! You are also involved with your local authority. But particularly impressive is the list of local businesses who support you. Well done on your new website also!

It is great that you will have your own school in the not too distant future, and that you are now setting out a great plan for the time when you have a Green School which you do not have to share. Your submission is very well laid out and a pleasure to read.

Thank you for your plan Guided Walking Tour submission. Your map was of help, but might be more detailed/larger scale.

Your plan 2008 to 2010 is a page long, and is really a budget only. It provides no details of how you propose to spend this money. To progress in this category it is critical to present a 3 or 5 year plan which is drawn up through public consultation, and which consultation is effective, and widespread. Reference was made to this in last year's adjudication, so for your own sakes do get to work on this in the Autumn! The plan does not have to be professionally prepared at all. It just needs to be focussed, sensible, and achievable in relation to all aspects of TidyTowns.

### **The Built Environment:**

You are most aware of the unique character of the buildings in your village, and they are many. You have developed a trail which is very interesting. You are very lucky to have such an interesting collection of buildings from so many periods of history, starting with the church and graveyard. The gates and entrances to

the old church are good, and well maintained. The row of cottages in the village is excellent, and a credit to their owners, as their architectural character is retained and they are presented in absolutely pristine condition - one better than the next. Windows, doorcases, railings etc. are all exemplary. The Johnstown Inn is a fine building. The two storey house uphill of the row of cottages is also excellent. The white two storey house opposite the cottages is also excellent. The redevelopment in the village street is carried out in a sensitive manner. The renewal of Johnstown House has been carried out well.

Your public art is interesting and provides a modern aspect of the built environment. Johnstown has retained a character which is excellent in the face of much change, and this built character, together with its maintenances marks it out as a visually great small town, evolved from a village without losing its sense of history and scale.

Good luck with your street name signs. We are sure you will choose appropriately! And we look forward to more bilingual signage.

### **Landscaping:**

Johnstown, despite its proximity to such a busy road has retained its greenness. Well done on the extra plantings in various locations. Again you are successfully involving local businesses. We look forward to seeing the new hedge on the approaches to the village. Maintenance of planted areas is good.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

Well done on your wildlife conservation area on the Kill road.

Your streamside location as you rightly point out can also provide additional wildlife to your village. You are also aware of the value of the graveyard in this regard. We are looking forward to your natural heritage trail. Perhaps you could gain the assistance of the local authority Heritage Officer to help you with this? Firstly you must conduct an actual survey. Could Kill school help?

Findings made public on information panels would add to the enjoyment of your village for local and visitors alike, and would serve good educational purposes. Your approach to appropriate maintenance is to be encouraged. Remember you can gain extra marks by progressing plans under this heading.

### **Litter Control:**

Litter control on adjudication day was good except for the area under the footbridge in the area of the Garden Centre. You might consider organising a Litter Seminar with the Litter Warden of your local authority, and prepare a Litter Plan. We note your communication with the local businesses on this issue also. Well done to them for their support! We wish you luck with your efforts to eliminate dog foul. We are also interested in your Fancy dress and soccer match as incentives!

### **Waste Minimisation:**

You are promoting recycling where possible. We note that you segregate on clean up days. Well done on the mobile phone recycling initiative. Your personalised carbon footprint idea is novel, and timely, and something new for TidyTowns to the best of this adjudicator's knowledge.

Waste minimisation is about more than not having litter in your street or indeed recycling. You might refer to the Race Against Waste booklet available from the TidyTowns Unit of the Department of the Environment, Heritage, and Local Government. Consider organising or attending a Waste Minimisation Workshop with your local authority. Perhaps you might prepare a flyer/newsletter on this subject? And encourage your cooperative businesses to get involved with you in this, as well as with actual recycling

### **Tidiness:**

The car park in the village was very tidy on adjudication day, with its young trees and incidental poppies. The barrier looks raw however. Perhaps you could come up with a solution to this. The entrance has nice old pillars, but the top of the wall needs fixing. The wall outside the car park is excellent; inside it needs a little repair. The copper beech was admired.

The recycling area was very tidy on adjudication day, but this adjudicator considers it to be located very close to the junction. The area for storage for the adjacent restaurant needs to be screened off. In fairness the occupiers had kept it very tidy nonetheless. The wall behind the car park at the recycling area could do with being cleaned. The Londis supply centre is tidy with its screened planters.

As you are well aware the major blackspot is the old garden centre with its broken building and windows, its weeded site, and pallets etc. stored in the open. It is in marked contrast to the immediate tidy and neat river environs. You are doing your best to screen it, but it really needs intensive care!

Seating in the street could do with renewal. There is also some cracked tactile paving near the garden centre on the street.

Road signs in general are good. They are mostly in good condition. In general the village and its surroundings were tidy.

Footpaths and verges as well as stone walls and hedgerows were in general, well cared for, and the village centre buildings, housing and Green were very good.

There was no graffiti in evidence. This is good.

### **Residential Areas:**

The residences of the village are very well maintained as are the estates which have been developed over recent years.

Johnstown Grove is well landscaped with semi-mature trees.

Johnstown Garden estate is also beautifully landscaped, and its location beside the stream is attractive, as is the little pedestrian connection to the village. A little weeding was required on the road verges here on adjudication day.

Furness Manor has good stone walls and a planted access, and has a mature backdrop, and nice semi-mature trees planted along the footpath.

The large St. John's estate and its myriad roads looked well.

Your National Spring clean involvement was taken seriously by the residents and this shows in the results.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The approach from the North is by a roundabout with lovely wildroses. The verges need trimming in places on the outer side of the town name sign. The landscaping is good. The name stone looks monumental and a little bare. From the name sign inwards towards the village the planting and trimming improve. This is a good approach. The footpaths were looking well tended.

The Naas approach again has a well planted roundabout with new semi mature plantings. There are colourful flowers in front of the name sign. The area around the bus stop is very neat.

On the Punchestown approach some weeding was required just on the town side of the access to the St. John's estate on adjudication day. Some weeds were in evidence in the vicinity of the ESB substation.

The edges only were trimmed in the vicinity of the speed limit sign which left nice banks of meadowsweet to be seen. The signs here are a credit to the local authority – being the traditional black and white striped signs, and well maintained.

Good luck with your pedestrian crossings.

### **General Impression:**

Johnstown is a busy community in relation to TidyTowns, and has made considerable progress. You have a big advantage in the fabric of your town on which to build. You are imaginative and appreciative of what you have. Work on the lesser scoring categories for 2009, and you have potential to advance rapidly. You have as you say yourselves new "momentum"