

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Johnstown** Ref: **396**  
County: **Kilkenny** Mark: **246**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **02/07/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	31
Landscaping	50	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	21
Litter Control	50	34
Waste Minimisation	20	11
Tidiness	30	13
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>246</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

The adjudicator would like to welcome Johnstown to the 2009 Tidy Towns Competition. It was great to have an opportunity to visit the village now, that it has been restored to the community following the bye-pass opening – what a difference this makes. Your Committee of 18 is quite large and is indicative of the very strong support that Tidy Towns enjoys in Johnstown. Your schedule of meetings is certainly a very active one. You have integrated the School into your plans and this is most important. The photographs that you provided were most helpful on the day of the visit. The adjudicator noted that a 3 Year Tidy Towns Plan was not included with your entry. Presumably, that will be developed from the Village Design Statement now under way. The adjudicator strongly endorses your wish to broaden community involvement in Tidy Towns.

### **The Built Environment:**

Hopefully your negotiations with the owner of the Ouncel will be successful for both parties, as this is a key building in The Square. On the Freshford approach, the Church of Ireland church is attractively framed by the high trees. Hopefully, you will be able to make some progress on the three derelict buildings on the Canal Road. Do remember, that the County Council has powers under The Derelict Sites Act that are available to them. It was great to see the Green Flag proudly flying at the School. The mature trees and planting, with their varied colours and textures here, provide a fine setting for the School. The Catholic Church was admired as was Cholaiste Mhuire, where the colour choice for the walls is excellent.

### **Landscaping:**

Your work on the housing estates is commended, but it is the colourful and detailed planting at The Square that really impresses. The original formal design of The Square seems to be more or less intact and the formal planting that you have provided is therefore appropriate. The mature trees and excellent grass areas complete the picture. Hanging baskets, flower tubs and window boxes were admired throughout Johnstown and the

individuals involved are to be commended.

**Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

Were the bird boxes provided this year? We await with interest the provision of the heritage information panel. Have you considered a wildlife survey of the Johnstown area involving perhaps, the two Schools?

**Litter Control:**

The weekly litter collections throughout the summer are strongly commended. Much litter was evident in Foulkscourt estate and in the parking area at The Ouncel. A little litter was evident outside The Stores. On the approach roads, litter control was much better.

**Waste Minimisation:**

No new projects that come under this category were noted in the entry form. This category is about the reduction of the amount of waste generated in Johnstown. Recycling is closely linked to this objective. Perhaps, there are some projects where you can involve the two Schools?

**Tidiness:**

On the Freshford road, on the right just before The Square, a corrugated iron gate needed to be repainted and in Foulkscourt, a damaged timber fence needed attention. The GAA premises was well presented, but weeds in the entrance area needed attention. Outside, long grass needed to be cut at the long road boundary wall. Otherwise, Johnstown was quite tidily presented.

**Residential Areas:**

The provision of additional planting in the estates was examined and it is encouraging to see that you have had professional advice on your planting programme. Kerb weed was a problem at Foulkscourt estate. Across the road from Ashfield House, well presented homes caught the eye on this approach road, while at Lios Na Si the central grass area needed a cut.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

On the Rathdowney approach, some banks and hedges needed to be trimmed (not in the period March to August). The Dublin and Cork approaches are fine straight roads well presented. On the Freshford side of Johnstown, some attractive verges caught the eye on the left, after the 50 KPH signage.

**General Impression:**

Johnstown is a most attractive village that has excellent potential to do really well in the Competition. Good luck with the VDS process and we look forward to reading of the results next year.