

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Villierstown** Ref: **240**
County: **Waterford** Mark: **271**
Category: **B** Date(s): **02/07/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	36
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	41
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	26
Litter Control	50	36
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	21
Residential Areas	40	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	36
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	271

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to the Tidy Towns Programme for 2009 and thank you for the Completed Entry Form and useful map enclosed. A compact, self enclosed community, Villierstown is always a pleasure to visit and admire. Driving from Cappoquin, beside the Blackwater River, along the forest pathway and entering via the Gates, the impact of the well swept, neat and inviting main street in most enjoyable. The suitably cut grass on either side, especially the exposed kerbs show off the village at its best. Houses on either side display "overflowing" gardens to great effect. Some dereliction is unfortunately apparent but by contrast there is a fine new house build at the lower end of the Main Street. Elsewhere, the view of the river from the little quay is stunning.

The Built Environment:

It is not the individual houses and shops that capture the eye but rather the sweep of the entire street, both buildings and landscape which combine to provide such an agreeable view for the visitor. The lodge by the entrance gates has been very much improved. The outside walls rebuilt. Well done. Cleaning and repainting the entrance's fine iron work here would greatly enhance this area. Washing the arches is recommended also. The Gala Express shop was colourful while both houses beside it were excellent with suitable window boxes. An Cruiscin Lán pub caught the eye. The National School was neat and inviting while Tracey's Bakery was well presented. The Church of Ireland and its grounds were displayed impeccably as always.

Landscaping:

The Memorial Park to the members of the Villiers-Stewart family is well maintained and overall most imposing. There is a need to ensure that the small stones used at the base of trees and in the central display are kept within their designated areas. On the day of adjudication they had become scattered around the entire display thus reducing the overall effect. The memorial family stone to mark the millennium is an excellent idea and is being well maintained. The pleasant seating in this area is a nice touch. The two flag polls at the Church of

Ireland were both devoid of flags. The flying of flags is one of the least expensive enhancements one can recommend, bringing colour and movement to a scene in an instance. The stone planters at the top gate were admired. The commemoration stone to John Treacy now elevated on its new paved area is a fitting and suitable tribute in his home town. The soft landscape of the Green is an excellent success and is being maintained to a very high degree. The traditional 'village pump' caught the eye.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The cutting of the verges and hedge on the way to the small quay is thoughtful in that the requirements of good landscaping has been coupled with the needs of bird and wildlife. The picnic table and litter bin at the harbour was noted. Do not overlook the possibilities presented by the Green for a set aside area to serve as a natural habitat. Likewise the school could well be suitable for a small bird life area with nesting boxes and bird tables for example. Discuss the options with a local bird life enthusiast or consult the Wild Life Officer attached to the Office of Public Works for ideas as to how best to proceed.

Litter Control:

Litter management was very much in evidence on the day of adjudication. Good litter bins were in position along Main Street. Minor amounts were noted at the Memorial Park. We admired the timber sign 'Keep our village litter free'.

Waste Minimisation:

While the bring centre and clothes recycling unit is well placed and being maintained in a suitable manner, this section of the competition is as much about encouraging a change of mind-set in respect of waste minimisation as it is about dealing with material recycling as such. Literature is available from Waterford County Council and elsewhere to help individual households and the community at large to reduce usage of scarce and expensive energy. They should also try to reuse items where appropriate and recycle materials wherever possible so that the final amount of waste carried to landfill is minimised. Consider staging an information evening to discuss these matters again with the co-operation of Waterford County Council.

Tidiness:

In general Villierstown projects a most agreeable air of neatness and order, however both derelict houses need to be "re-touched up" as before. Paint the mock windows and doors while you continue your efforts to secure a long term solution for both of them. Well done on the presentation of the two small sheds on the Green. Remove the few weeds outside the well swept kerb stones. At the quay one horizontal bar is broken and all of the low level fencing would benefit from painting before next years competition. There is an amount of loose stones on the pavement on the Dungarvan Road as a number of house owners have used this material on their driveways.

Residential Areas:

The limited housing stock of Villierstown is well presented and growing appreciable over the last number of years. Woodview Close featured a well tendered communal grassed area. Chemical methods have been used to control weeds and grass outside the kerb stones. It is important to sweep up and remove the dead vegetation. The Green featured a number of excellent, private gardens which contributed much to the overall scene. They were very well maintained and full of vibrant colour. The newer development at Riverview Estate with a sensible service road featured excellent planting and suitable communal grassed areas were in great condition. The house overlooking the small quayside was a gem.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The use of stone walls on many approach roads helps to create a certain agreeable character for Villierstown. The suitable but not excessive cutting of verges for quite some distance from the centre also helps to add to this good first impression. However the dry fill stone wall on the Clashmore/Youghal road has unravelled some what and needs attention. The Villierstown name carved on large stones on the various approach roads were impressive and well clear of any encroaching vegetation. The speed limit sign on the Youghal road needs repainting. The overarching willow trees on the road to the quay are delightful. There appeared to be a series of only partly reinstated trenches across this road which may get more pronounced with time. There is an excellent new pavement past the houses at River View.

General Impression:

It is always a pleasure to visit this slightly unusual village with its air of antiquity and just a hint of being somewhat and pleasantly cut off from the normal run of things. Its awareness and respect for its past – ancient and recent – is well projected and clearly appreciated. To everyone and each agency associated with this year's entry, our best thanks and applause. Please keep up the good work and you are wished well in next year's competition.

