

Tidy Towns Competition 2013

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Johnstown** Ref: **370**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **283**
Category: **C** Date(s): **04/07/2013**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2012	Mark Awarded 2013
Overall Development Approach	50	33	35
The Built Environment	50	37	38
Landscaping	50	39	40
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	29	30
Litter Control	50	31	32
Sustainable Waste And Resource Management	20	8	9
Tidiness	30	21	21
Residential Areas	40	33	34
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	35	36
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	400	274	283

Overall Development Approach:

Johnstown is welcomed to the 2013 Tidy Town's competition. Thank you for your entry form very helpful map and copy of your plan which were all appreciated. Your committee of 5 member's part of the Johnstown community association together with a number of volunteers are working well to develop the area further. It is good to see that the residents and local businesses support you with fund raising events. The participation of young people with your work is also encouraging. It is also encouraging to see the residential areas taking pride in their respective areas. That's what Tidy Towns is about, the community working together to improve their town or village. Your communication with the local authority by email and text and your local newsletter and newspaper is good. Having a representative on Scoil Bhride Kill particularly in relation to litter picking and other issues that may occur is important. You have a good attitude as a committee working together and as a result socially interacting with the community thus making it enjoyable for all.

The Built Environment:

It is good to note your heritage of the village with the new plaques erected at various buildings is not forgotten. The information provided on these new stones is very informative. The old church and graveyard were visited and admired for the manner in which they are maintained. Johnstown House is another imposing building which is well presented. The cottages in the centre with their attractive windows are a lovely centre piece in the village. The crèche was also visited and its bright appearance would certainly attract little ones. The area of the car park was neat and tidy. You did not forget the Irish language with the slán abhaile on the back of your name stones which are very welcoming as you enter the village.

Landscaping:

Johnstown has many good aspects of landscaping. The lovely mature beech trees, the well landscaped roundabouts, hedging and green areas. The residential areas are all well landscaped. Punchestown road has nice landscaping. Johnstown family practice had a very unusual garden of stone mix. The new landscaping behind Centra and the Victoria Garden were admired. The road from Kill has to be mentioned as it has everything with nice hedging and landscaping. It is good to note that a lot of the landscaping is herbaceous which provides all year round colour. A new bin was also noticed here. A dead tree was noted across from Johnstown Inn which could be removed.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The adjudicator is pleased to see that your group are conducting a habitat survey and mapping of Johnstown. This report will be welcomed. Your village has many areas of vegetation that provides safe homes for wildlife. The old graveyard provides stone walls, trees and hedging. These areas encourage wildlife. You are also lucky to have a river in close proximity to the village that also provides natural habitats. Your survey when complete will create an awareness of the many different types of wildlife in the area. It will also be informative for visitors to the village and will add more to the area.

Litter Control:

Your campaign against litter is certainly working. On adjudication day the village was almost free of litter. Your volunteers are certainly doing a good job, it is also important to have the children involved in this area. Well done on your continued hard work.

Sustainable Waste And Resource Management:

This category has posed challenges for many groups. Groups are now been encouraged to move beyond recycling and take steps to reduce the amount of waste being produced in the community. The group should carry out some sort of waste survey. This would be a start in identifying the types of waste that needs to be somehow reduced. You should also consider resource efficiency in general across the community. This could be in areas of water, energy and transport. Along with reducing waste you are also saving money in the community. The Tidy Towns handbook is another way to get advice on how this area can be handled. Reuse of books and other items are also sometimes used as a means of bringing in much needed funds.

Tidiness:

In the Johnstown Manor area there was some weed growth at kerbs also at the seats and bench across from Centra. Just take care of the service points as they are often used as target areas for graffiti and fly posting. The bottle and clothes banks were neat and tidy.

Residential Areas:

As stated earlier it is good to see that the residents association takes care of their own open spaces and entrances. Johnstown gardens have a lovely green open area which was nicely landscaped with mature trees and well maintained gardens. Johnstown manor and larger housing estates were well presented. All houses have neat gardens and are well maintained. The cottages mentioned earlier in the village are a little gem of attractive buildings. These too have nicely maintained gardens. There are many more well presented private residences through the village and they too are superbly maintained. Well done to everyone involved for the pride they take in their area.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads starting from Naas motorway with heritage sign and stone nameplate, hedging and trees gave a good first impression of the village of Johnstown.

The road from Kill is well maintained and has a vast amount of shrubbery to maintain. All roundabouts into the village are well presented. There are nice bollards throughout the village and it is good to see that you have been successful in getting the upgrade at the junction. It looks well and also enables the traffic to move freely.

General Impression:

Your committee should be proud of your achievements. As you say in your entry you have managed to maintain the character of the village while experiencing major structural changes with the construction of housing developments. Continue with your 3 year plan but focus on wildlife and sustainable waste and resource management. These areas will help you gain more marks in the