

Tidy Towns Competition 2018

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Johnstown** Ref: **370**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **306**
Category: **B** Date(s): **27/06/2018**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2017	Mark Awarded 2018
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	44	45
Streetscape & Public Places	50	40	40
Green Spaces and Landscaping	50	41	41
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	32	33
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	11	12
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	57	57
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	38	38
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	39	40
TOTAL MARK	450	302	306

Community – Your Planning and Involvement / An Pobal - Pleanáil agus Rannpháirtíocht:

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Johnstown Baile Eoin chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2018 agus chuig Ceiliúradh 60 Bliain an Chomórtais. Johnstown Community Association is very welcome to the Supervalu Tidy Towns Competition 2018. Thank you for your comprehensive submission which included many good photographs showing works undertaken and events held over the last year and the document was very clear and concise. The map provided with your application was quite small and it was not possible to read all the notes indicating the locations of interest in the village. For next year try to use an A3 size map with the various items of interest pinpointed clearly with a numbered legend provided on the map. This is very helpful in the adjudication of your village. It would be good in future years to identify the timing and nature of the work activities and projects using the N, M, and FP designations, as indicated on the Application Form, as this is also helpful to the Adjudicator. You have 9 members on your Committee meeting 10 times per year with a further 5-8 non-committee members who volunteer for work days on Saturday mornings and Tuesday Evenings. There are a range of agencies which support your work including Kildare County Council, Kildare Volunteer Centre, Kill/Johnstown Local History Group, The Johnstown Inn, Centra, Discount Tiles and Palmerstown House Estate. The local Community are also very supportive and provide additional funding through collections on an annual basis. Formal and informal means of communication are used to engage with the general public including the Johnstown Village website, newsletters, facebook page, public notices and text alerts and also face to face encounters and meetings with the general public on work days. Engagement with local schools is through your representative on the local school Parents' Association Group and you also have ties with the local Scouts Group.

Streetscape & Public Places / Sráid-Dreach & Áiteanna Poiblí:

The Old Garden Centre Site is a long running issue for Johnstown Tidy Towns group and no doubt you are anxious to get the landownership and leasing arrangements for the site clarified as soon as possible. Unfortunately, legal issues of this kind can take a long time to resolve and you are wished well with your continued efforts in this regard. As it stands the site is in a semi-derelict condition and detracts considerably from the presentation of Johnstown Village and the sooner development works commence on the site the better it will be for all concerned. The old Graveyard was visited and the tree planting was admired and in particular the mock orange Philadelphus which was in full flower and filled the whole graveyard with beautiful scent. The Earl of Mayo's grave with it's impressive Celtic Cross was noted and it was wondered were there any plans to protect the old Church building and cross from further weathering and physical damage? – it should be noted that a very good protection scheme has been carried out at the Moone High Cross site which could be replicated in the graveyard at Johnstown. There is a stone slab near the Chancel and it was wondered whether there was any historical information on this which could be explained to visitors. The gate to the graveyard is in need of some repair work. It is noted that a heritage talk with a local historian was held in the graveyard in August 2017. The attractive cobble drainage channels on both sides of

the main road is a unique and attractive feature of the village. The Mill cottages are a wonderful feature in the village and are presented to a very high standard with attractive front gardens. The public carpark and the adjacent site along the stream were visited. Perhaps some hedge planting could be provided along the palisade fence and the mound along the stream removed to provide improved visual access to the stream from the car park side. There was also evidence of dumping of green waste here. The quality of the water in the stream appears to be very good.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The planting beds located in front of the Mill Cottages enhance the newly painted village pump and stone trough which is planted with flowers and these were greatly admired. The unusual 'Bhutan' or 'Fortune' Palm trees located to the front of the Victoria Garden Restaurant added visual interest in this area. The landscaping of approach roads into Johnstown with appropriately planted roundabouts and roadside verges and avenues of trees and hedges is superbly presented. You have successfully engaged with local businesses regarding placing floral displays to the front of their premises facing the road. The clipped evergreens which define the entrance doorways to the properties adjacent to the Johnstown Inn are a delightful feature in the village.

Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality / An Dúlra agus an Bhithéagsúlacht i do cheantar:

It is good to read that you have commenced a programme of work to create an area of biodiversity on an overgrown site located under the Johnstown side of the M7 Flyover. Thanks are due to Johnstown Garden Centre who have supported this project. Well done to Luke Kivlehan of Pipers Hill School in Naas who has completed a Wildlife Habitat Development Management Plan for Johnstown Village. It will be interesting to see how this project will enhance future habitat conservation and protection in the village.

Sustainability – Doing more with less / Inmharthanacht - Mórán ar an mbeagán:

Well done to your Committee for organising the Johnstown Village Recycle day which generated 50 bags of clothes for recycling. As a Community you are recycling well and are preventing many items like cans and bottles going to Landfill. Your adjudicator is delighted to read that your Community has joined the Sustainable Energy Community Network run by the SEAI and have been assigned a SEC Mentor to help you achieve your ambitions. There is much to be done in the area of renewable energy and reducing carbon emissions and you are wished well in progressing this project. There are grants available for a lot of this energy saving work.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

On the visit and walk through the village, no significant amounts of litter were noted by the adjudicator and the recycling facility was found to be very neat and tidily presented – well done. It is noted that Kildare County Council carry out regular litter picks in the village on weekdays and this is supplemented by Tidy Towns litter patrols at weekends.

Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:

You have established strong links with Residents Associations in Johnstown who organise regular maintenance work in their estates and some areas outside their boundaries. Johnston Manor estate was visited and was very well presented with closely mown open spaces and roadside margins, good quality street trees and well-presented private gardens. Johnstown Gardens estate is an attractive estate with well-appointed single storey houses. The main open space has a stream which runs along the boundary of the main road. At St. Johns Gove the planting at the entrance and estate namestone looked very well and the large open space was also maintained to a high standard.

Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:

It is good that you place considerable emphasis on the presentation of approach roads into Johnstown Village and these are superbly landscaped and maintained and provide an enhanced driving experience for road users. Well done to the volunteers who undertake the necessary maintenance work throughout the year. The roadside margins are also brought to life during Springtime by extensive daffodil bulb plantings. The Johnstown name signage on the approaches to the village was particularly admired as was the fingerpost signs in the village centre. Road surfaces and markings on approaches to the village were generally found to be in a good condition.

Concluding Remarks:

Johnstown has great potential to progress in the Competition. One feels the development of the Garden Centre site is a key issue for your Committee to resolve into the future. Your heritage assets are very significant and deserve special attention over the coming years. Keep up the good work.