Tidy Towns Competition 2025

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Johnstown - Baile Eoin**	Ref:	**370**
County:	**Kildare**	Mark:	**357**
Category:	**C**	Date(s):	**25/06/2025**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2024	Mark Awarded 2025
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	49	51
Streetscape & Public Places	80	45	46
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	46	47
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	38	39
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	17	19
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	63	64
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	43	45
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	44	46
TOTAL MARK	**550**	**345**	**357**

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

Fáilte chuig Comórtas Bhailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2025. Go raibh maith agaibh as bhur iarratas a chur isteach. Maith sibh don obair atá déanta agaibh in bhur cheantar go dtí seo - guímid gach rath oraibh i bhur dtionscadail amach anseo. Ádh mór. Johnstown is welcomed to the Supervalu Tidy Towns competition for 2025. Thank you for your application and map. The village has a committee which is made up of representatives from business and residential areas. There are a number of volunteers who help out with various projects as required. Other members adopt a section and maintain that area in their own time. Meetings are held regularly and representatives also attend meetings of Johnstown Community Council. Like most towns and villages Johnstown continues to grow in size and population with three new housing schemes completed. Members willing to volunteer are accommodated and welcomed. Children from the school usually work alongside their parents. Kildare County Council have given good support with heritage and environment projects, by giving funding and advice. You are also fortunate to have the help of a CE worker who helps with the general maintenance of the village. Networking with other groups is also very helpful in gaining knowledge and helping to address issues that may arise. Local businesses and the community are also very supportive of your work. Communication to the wider community is through social media, newsletter and notice boards. Taking part in the competition has helped create a greater sense of pride in the community, all working together to make the village a better place to live in and visit.

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

The village has a mix of heritage and more modern builds that form part of the streetscape. The old Church and graveyard are presented to a high standard. This is an excellent site where nature can flourish in the stone work and landscaped areas. The cottages in the village bring their own uniqueness to the streetscape. Like most towns and villages Johnstown has grown, with a number of housing estates established. The Garden centre which is very supportive of your ongoing projects is very well presented. The old garden centre site looks set for a new lease of life from the well thought out plans, that you hope will be commencing shortly. This looks to be a major boost for the village with plans for an excellent community space serving the needs of a growing population. The village pump which is part of the heritage was admired.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The village has an abundance of trees and hedging which is complemented by the ground and container landscaping that is maintained in the village. The inclusion of more pollinator friendly plants, which includes wild flower meadows, is encouraged. This type of perennial planting is also more economical. It is also good to plant annuals that bring colour and vibrancy to the streetscape. Ground planting where possible is also easier to maintain. It is also important to keep bedding clear of weeds to present the flowers at their best. Trees also need

care especially until they are established by staking and checking tree ties as required. The removal of dead trees is also important as they take from the overall appearance of their surroundings. Sadly, there are many dead trees noticed through the countryside at present.

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

The management and protection of local habitats and species is important. To ensure that the village are managing the superb biodiversity that is already present they have engaged the services of Green Pine consultants, to formulate a biodiversity Action Plan for the village. This is a five-year plan with actions worked on each year. The village is fortunate to have a river which adds to the biodiversity of the village. Presently you are working on the hedgerows and planting of more trees. You are also allowing the grass to grow to encourage the wildflowers in the spring to blossom which is important for pollinators. The Church grounds is a natural area for this type of grass growth. It is good to see that the estates are also planting more trees to build on the existing tree stock. The green area in the village is a nice relaxing space to enjoy the natural surroundings.

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

In this category most groups are striving to make their areas more sustainable by their actions. The three main areas where savings can be made are in energy, transport and water. More and more homes and businesses are installing solar panels which is helping to reduce electricity costs. Harvesting of rainwater can be adapted by the wider community by installing water butts, which can be used to water plants and other tasks. Recycling clothes such as you have done and helping another community in the process is commended. The re-turn scheme has proved very successful and has reduced the number of bottles thrown along hedges and in public places. Walking and cycling which is good for health and wellbeing and the use of public transport is another good way of saving. Planting perennial plants and using seeds and cuttings also helps. You are fortunate that the local garden centre supports you with your planting. Do remember to document all projects in this category as there are many when listed. Otherwise they go unnoticed and not get the recognition they deserve.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Thankfully most towns and villages are improving with less litter being noted. This is a result of the hard work Tidy Towns groups have been doing in the control and hopefully eradication of litter. Johnstown has a spring clean-up which helps to motivate the community and get as many of the community involved. Have you noticed if there is a reduction in the amount of litter that is collected each year? Hopefully it is reducing and you know your plan is working. It is also good to segregate all litter collected and recycle where possible.

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

Johnstown like most towns and villages has grown in size and population with the development of housing estates. The cottages in the village are part of the old streetscape of the village. The new houses have blended in adding their own charm to the overall ambience of the village streetscape. The housing estates have good entrance signs, well maintained green areas and landscaping. Trees are a major part of the landscaping and this is commended. The houses along the approach roads and throughout the village also have well painted facades and bright colourful floral displays in their gardens and planted containers. The residents are commended on the work they do in presenting their homes and surroundings to such a high standard.

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

The approach roads to the village have superb entrance signs which provides the visitor with a good first impression of the village. Grass verges are neat while retaining a corridor for wildlife. Trees and hedging along with landscaping was admired. The roundabout was also admired. Road surfaces are good. It is also noted from your photos that the planting of bulbs provides colour and vibrancy to the approach roads during the dark days, which is why planting that brings all year round colour and interest, is encouraged.

Concluding Remarks:

Johnstown was a pleasure to visit and adjudicate. Your new project of the old garden centre site when complete will provide superb amenities for a growing community like Johnstown. Keep up the good work and you are wished well in the future.