

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALBRIGGAN**
County : **DUBLIN**
Category : **E**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 11-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18
Landscaping	40	21
The Built Environment	40	20
Litter Control	40	20
Tidiness	20	12
Residential Areas	30	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	300	165

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

While it has been noted that your committee has only been re-activated since March of this year, it should be pointed out that it is necessary to involve the entire Balbriggan community in your work, e.g. schools. The involvement of Super Valu, the local skip hire company and Fingal County Council is welcomed and we look forward to seeing your planned projects for further tree planting and more clean ups in the years to come. A 3 to 5 year plan should be drafted for next year to assist in the overall development of Balbriggan.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Balbriggan has enormous potential for wildlife conservation with amenities such as the harbour, the seafront beaches and the countryside surrounding the town. The Harbour in particular is noteworthy with the presence of a seal colony being a very unique feature in an urban area. However, it was noted on adjudication day that there was quite a lot of litter surrounding the harbour and uncollected waste bags from the adjoining night-club. There was also quite a lot of debris in the Harbour itself - cans, bottles and oil/petrol leaking from boats. Perhaps steps could be taken to improve this by the committee in the coming year.

LANDSCAPING

The choice of trees, shrubs and flowers throughout Balbriggan is to be commended particularly at the Sunshine Home. The flowers planted outside the VEC, however, could be better maintained and checked for litter. It might be a good idea to have the school children in the area more involved in upkeeping Balbriggan's planted areas.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Most of Balbriggan's important buildings were very well presented. Worthy of particular mention are the Credit Union and the Church. The incidence of shops throughout the town favouring more traditional signs/shop fronts is commendable. Detracting from the town is the cinema, with oil cans placed outside; the front of the building would need to be seriously upgraded. The front of Spicers Bakery and the Milestone Bar would also need to be upgraded.

LITTER CONTROL

This category was quite inconsistent. The residential areas and open areas are very well kept. However, on the day of adjudication the main streets, Dublin Street, Bridge Street and Drogheda Street, had quite a lot of litter in evidence with uncollected litter bins throughout the main street. The area around the harbour had a lot of litter particularly beside the Life night-club with graffiti on the walls and on the footbridge from train station area.

TIDINESS

Hedges and grass verges were well turned out on approach roads. The welcome to Balbriggan sign had some very nice flowers planted around it. The church and the rectory beside it were very well turned out also. There was lack of weed control in evidence on some of the kerbs throughout the town. Perhaps some of the committee members could liaise with property owners on a regular basis to alleviate this and the litter problem on the main street - i.e. banks, shop owners etc.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The majority of residential areas were all very well turned out on adjudication day. Some gardens were very impressive particularly in the area around Market Green and Hampton Street, Pump Lane, Naul

Street, High Street and the residences off Clonard Street. There were a few weedy kerbsides along boundary walls and grass verges which could do with attention.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads into Balbriggan were presented to a high standard. Church Street, High Street and Hampton Street were particularly well turned out. Gardens and hedgerows were all well kept with very few exceptions, particularly impressive was the area approaching the beach with a tunnel at the end of it - this area was well kept. However, the main street through Balbriggan needs greater attention bearing in mind that it is used as a main road to and from Belfast. The area around St. George's Square could also do with some attention.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The general impression of Balbriggan is very good. It would be beneficial to involve more local businesses and schools in your efforts especially in the area of litter control. Particular attention would need to be given to the main thoroughfare through Balbriggan so as not to detract from the overall image of the town.