

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **BALLYTORE**  
County : **KILDARE**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 17-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15
Landscaping	40	25
The Built Environment	40	23
Litter Control	40	22
Tidiness	20	11
Residential Areas	30	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24
General Impression	10	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>176</b>

## **Adjudicator's Comments**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Welcome to the new format of the 1996 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your completed questionnaire. The adjudicators look forward to you submitting your detailed five year work programme next year. It is good to see great improvements and strides being made, particularly, to the built environment, including the restoration and development of buildings in residential areas. Also, premises were painted up and it was a pleasure to visit on day of adjudication. Continue to press for improvements on the remaining derelict buildings and maintain your vigilance. Try to pay attention to detail in stone walls where these can be brought out.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The area by the river/bridge could have been better presented at time of adjudication. Litter was evident on the left hand side and on the right hand side the litter bin needed to be replaced or fixed up. Try to encourage continued tree planting throughout the village. The development of nature trails or amenity walks would be a nice feature, for example, a walkway to the old Quaker burial ground - could a plaque or information display be erected here? There is potential for greater nature conservation in the village; a good starting point would be to identify the wildlife habitats in your catchment areas and see what species of animals, fish, plants etc. these attract. Why not get involved with your local environment experts and groups who could advise you and provide you with the specialist information you require.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Overall, good effort was noted here this year. Try to paint up the flower tubs. To the right of the Telecom exchange does need attention, try to work on this. Flower tubs were noted at the pub area, but they would have benefited from painting. The open space near the residential area could have been better presented and some weeds were evident by the former Quaker school and up towards the junction of the Athy road.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The adjudicators were very impressed with the improvement noted in Ballytore this year, congratulations to those involved. It was good to see that the majority of premises have received a painting and the development of new buildings or the restoration of old buildings is particularly welcomed. There are still several derelict buildings throughout Ballytore and try to encourage improvement to these. Within the village itself, the Garda Station was painted and looked very well; J. J. Hovenden had, unfortunately, be closed, so try to remove the plastic flowers from the tubs overhead; Kellys pub needed to be painted up and try to clear away the windows; the Quaker Museum and Library was well presented, perhaps flower tubs outside might be a nice feature; try to replace the signage at Nolans Foodstore; Butterfields would benefit from a painting. Work was on-going at the creamery - try to ensure that the entrance and the area opposite this is landscaped as soon as possible upon completion of these works.

The adjudicators also visited Crookstown Mill with its magnificent presentation and one the village should be proud of. Overall, while there definitely is improvement to the built environment, there are continued efforts needed here in order to maintain premises.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter control was quite good. The village of Ballytore looked quite tidy on day of adjudication. Litter was noted in one or two areas: it was particularly bad outside Nolans and at the seating opposite; and it was also noted on the approach from Athy/Kildare road; on the left hand side and also at the entrance into fields. Try to maintain vigilance here. Try to work with school children in forming litter patrols during the summer months.

## TIDINESS

The painting of premises over the past year has improved the appearance of the village. It is felt by the adjudicators that one extra bit of effort is needed throughout the village in most areas. Try to clean up the Quaker Burial sign, many signs need to be either cleaned or replaced throughout the village - this is something you might approach the County Council about. The telephone kiosk needed to be painted and have its window replaced. It was nice to see that the telegraph pole had been painted to blend in with the former Post Office, a nice touch. At the open space near the former Quaker school, the base of walls and patio area need to be cleared of weeds.

## RESIDENTIAL AREAS

A very good performance under this section with most areas well maintained. Strong individual efforts were noted throughout the village and it is obvious that there is a pride in premises and their gardens. Two cottages on the Dublin approach road had been freshly painted and were set off well with the use of flowers; trees were also coming on well. The new housing development is a major improvement, congratulations this year, with nice stone walls and tree planting noted. On the Athy/Kildare road, several excellent examples were also noted, for example, to the left, and to the right of Cottage Crafts had excellent presentations. The premises opposite OConnors Pub was excellent. A nice terrace of houses was noted for its presentation at the former Quaker school.

## ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

On the approach road from Dublin, try to clean the finger post signs on the main road itself and paint the Ballytore sign and the Welcome sign. Closer in, the verges were relatively neat and tidy at time of adjudication. The left hand side was particularly good with trees coming on well, well done. Very small sprinklings of litter were noted at the Site Entrance notice. On the approach road towards the museum, try to rebuild this wall - this might be a long term project, small amounts of litter were noted, but not too bad. Try to have the path swept clear of weeds, as this took from the overall appearance and try to fix/replace the gate adjacent to the museum. Approaching Ballytore from the Athy/Kildare road, verges could have been cut at time of adjudication but they weren't too bad - the signs on this approach signs needed to be painted up. Closer in towards Crookstown Mill, the area was much better maintained but litter was a bit of a problem.

## GENERAL IMPRESSION

The general impression left with the adjudicators on their visit to Ballytore was one of encouragement in that improvements are being made to buildings which is a major bonus and it is nice to see that a good effort has been made in painting premises; unfortunately, at time of adjudication some were in need of a second painting. Small amounts of litter were evident in parts; these were quite bad and you must maintain your vigilance in this regard - the school children have a major role to play in overcoming this. Generally, residential areas were well presented and on approach roads close to the village grass had been cut at time of adjudication. Try to make an extra effort with the two patio areas - one near the former Quaker school and the other by the Athy/Kildare approach road. Good luck in your efforts for continued improvements for 1997.