

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALTIMORE**
County : **CORK**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 11-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	20	--
The Built Environment	40	23	--
Landscaping	40	20	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	--
Litter Control	40	29	--
Tidiness	20	12	--
Residential Areas	30	23	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	--
General Impression	10	6	--
TOTAL MARK	300	168	--

Baltimore, Co Cork

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

It is very good to see Baltimore back in the competition. You do not mention what official bodies you co-operate with, or if you have a FAS Youth Employment Scheme: if you do not, it can be extremely helpful both to the Committee and to the young people employed. By now almost all other centres have compiled their 3-5 Year Development Plans; these have proved to be very useful in identifying objectives, in listing work to be done and scheduling improvements over a defined period. You did not provide a map (Section D) so it has been difficult to give a name to some of the sites mentioned below, especially as few streets or housing areas have name plates. These are matters which should be energetically addressed for next year.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

St Matthews Church is the most notable architectural landmark in use, and is very well maintained. The castle above the harbour is clearly of historical importance and should be more easily accessible. The Hotel is very neatly kept, as is Caseys with its strong colour and excellent stone boundary walls, and The Captains Table premises is exceptionally well presented. A derelict building on the Skibbereen road is fairly decently disguised, but unfortunately some ruinous industrial buildings between the Hotel and the sea give an overwhelmingly poor aspect to that quarter. The Garda Station building is badly in need of painting.

LANDSCAPING

Verges and public grassed areas are not particularly well looked after, but the Hotel gardens are well laid out and beautifully nurtured. There is a good opportunity for landscaping along the new road from the Diving Centre to St Matthews; tree planting would improve this section tremendously. Plants which are native to the area - fuschia is one example - should be chosen.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Baltimore enjoys a wonderful marine life, and attention should be given to promoting this to resident and visitor alike. The notes in the Tidy Towns booklet, and the pages provided by Conservation Volunteers Ireland enclosed with it, should help you in your endeavours under this heading. The harbour is well maintained and has a busy and colourful air.

LITTER CONTROL

There was very little litter in the centre of the village on adjudication day. However, there were one or two entrances where litter had been allowed to collect, and these should be watched.

TIDINESS

Several banks and verges were unkempt, and kerbside weed was prevalent here and there. The forecourt of the Glenans Sailing Centre was weedy. The whole area from the harbour round to the Hotel has a very unkempt air, not only due to work on housing construction (which is understandable). Ramshackle buildings and rusty iron roofs prevail in this neighbourhood.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Almost all of Baltimore is residential, and this category is impressive throughout the village. Older houses, whether plastered and painted or in native stonework, or in a mixture of both, looked extremely well, and much recent housing fits easily into the landscape. Particularly praiseworthy are the picturesque terraces with dormers and bargeboards. A new development inspired by the indigenous building tradition, close to the harbour, is very promising indeed. Church Strand View estate has a prosperous and well kept air; additional tree planting here, and at the equally well kept Baltimore Holiday Homes, would enhance these residential areas even further.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Street surfaces in the village centre are poor. A number of entries and openings reveal poorly kept back areas. The new road, which by-passes the centre and harbour, should be signposted to relieve traffic to those places. Roads, streets and terraces should all be provided with name plates.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Seen from a distance, and especially from the sea, Baltimore is exceedingly attractive; it is only on closer inspection that discrepancies become noticeable, and unfortunately these have to be assessed in the context of your entry to the Competition. The village is strong on traditional buildings and on modern housing which respects this tradition, but weak on industrial dereliction and unkempt sites; yet there is no doubt that it is a charming and lively place.