

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLYMORE EUSTACE**
County : **KILDARE**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 16-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	34
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	29	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	18
Litter Control	40	27	26
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	25
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	205	197

Ballymore Eustace, Co. Kildare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your detailed map and entry form which were helpful during the course of adjudication. The adjudicators look forward to the submission of your five year plan. The adjudicators admired with interest the work that has taken place in the town square. It is nice to see that you have incorporated water into this feature, together with bilingualism. This is obviously a new development which will take time to blend in, but should eventually do so nicely, once the planting matures.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Church of Ireland was very well presented this year. Try to have the building where the FAS project is taking place improved; obviously this is part of your long term plan. Also, the Garda Station is very disappointing, and should be painted. Kestral Homes was well presented, as was the area by the Post Office. There is a need for painting of premises generally, however, throughout the town, as it took from the overall appearance. An effort by every individual resident to keep their premises freshly painted will be welcomed. Ballymore Inn was very well presented, as was the school. The adjudicators recognise that there are a number of derelict buildings in the area and within your long term plan you might try to incorporate steps to overcome these sensitive spots. Try to paint the perimeter wall of the Catholic Church.

LANDSCAPING

Ballymore Eustace is very well presented under this category this year. Well done in this regard. Nice planting was noted at the junction to the Punchestown road. The feature at the centre is very nice, it soothes the effect of the buildings and the openness of the square and perhaps you might consider additional tree planting to complement this. Flower baskets were noted on some premises and on poles, well done in this regard. Also, an excellent presentation was noted on the approach from Blessington.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Conserving nature is a new venture for many towns and can appear daunting at first. The adjudicators recognise that environmental programmes can take time to get up and running and even longer to assess their success. This section of the report requires an involvement of all groups, including schools in the village. The emphasis is on the conservation and enhancement of wildlife habitats and the environment. Woodlands, rivers, ponds, hedgerows, open spaces, graveyards and walls are important habitats. The committee needs to identify the habitats in their area and then determine the appropriate actions to conserve and enhance these habitats. Guidelines in the Tidy Towns book offer other suggestions as to the type of

initiatives you might undertake. Is there a local wildlife expert, or a member of the community with experience in this area, that your committee can draw on? In preparing an environmental programme for the village, there should be a year-round participation in environmental protection and promotion involving all members of the community and providing access for all. The next step is to identify what habitats are in your area - are there woodlands, wetlands, grasslands, or other habitats such as urban spaces, cemeteries, walls etc. Prepare a survey and map, showing the areas of wildlife importance and areas of future importance, e.g. school grounds and gardens, derelict sites etc. Other steps involved in the preparation of the environmental programme for Ballymore Eustace would include identification of the flora and fauna in the area; preparation of a wildlife management plan as part of the area development plan; work to be carried out including conservation projects, wildlife gardens, areas of conservation, access, tree planting, information areas etc. This must be carried out in sympathy with the local landscape and must not be overwhelming visually, or environmentally. The river walk is a fantastic wildlife amenity to have; congratulations. The fencing had been painted at the time of adjudication; unfortunately, litter was evident on the steps down to the walk from the residential park. Try to put up some information, even a notice board along here to explain the significance of the area. There is other evidence of wildlife habitats also; for example, hedgerows and even a small wooded area near the approach from Blessington.

LITTER CONTROL

It was good to see new bins. Litter was noted in a number of minor places but was generally not a problem. A place where it was noted included a gateway opposite Liffey Heights, although Liffey Heights itself was litter free. Litter was also noted by the steps down to the river walk where it was quite bad. Otherwise, litter was not a problem along the Main Street, or in the square. The area outside Vivo and around the telephone kiosk was almost entirely litter free. Overall, a good presentation.

TIDINESS

There is a very tidy appearance throughout Ballymore Eustace with nice cobble locking and good use of street furniture. However, there is a need to paint buildings. A nice, freshly painted row of houses can create a very positive and tidy appearance, so try to work on this for next year.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

A lovely cottage was noted on the right hand side on the approach road from Poulaphouca down from the Church of Ireland. Hillcrest was very good; it was neat, tidy and litter free, and excellent individual efforts were noted. Liffey Heights is a very good presentation, but try to watch the weeds. Congratulations to the residents of St. Brigid's Park, a truly beautiful planted area was noted. Assumpta Terrace was also well presented. The adjudicators found no negative aspects within the residential parks. However, within the main built up area, more residential

premises could be painted.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

On the approach road from Blessington, an excellent presentation was noted at the right hand side. Well done in this regard. Try to watch the weeds along by the footpath. Approaching from Naas, another excellent presentation was noted - try to put the Irish name of Ballymore Eustace on stone nameplates. Good effort was noted with planting on the left hand side and tree planting on the right hand side. The grass had been cut back and walls were cleared. Within the main streets, there was a very good presentation noted through the use of good street furniture including lamp posts, seating, cobble locking etc. Approaching from Hollywood, it is a good presentation complimented by efforts of residents in planting opposite the park. Overall, a very good performance under this section.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

It is evident that there are very good individual and collective efforts throughout Ballymore Eustace under this competition. Your efforts to develop under each category are being rewarded in marks. However, the adjudicators felt that some of the buildings could be better presented in terms of painting - so try to work on this for next year. Otherwise, you are continuing to make progress in this competition.