

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 20-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	30
The Built Environment	40	24	23
Landscaping	40	26	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	15
Litter Control	40	20	22
Tidiness	20	11	11
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	24
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	181	176

Ballytore, Co. Kildare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your entry form. It is good to see continued improvements being made in this village which, over many years, has suffered from dereliction. Improvements have been noted, and you appear to have a good developmental approach, with a good mix of commercial and residential buildings. It is also nice to see information plaques incorporated into the heritage of the area. The adjudicators look forward to the submission of your detailed five year plan. This plan should be simple and realistic, covering 3 - 5 pages, together with a map outlining areas for improvement or particular problem areas. Try to get greater input from your local authority, business community, residents and schools.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Garda Station was newly painted. A much improved presentation was noted at the factory this year, with a new entrance, new buildings and new boundary walls noted (Avonmore). Consider tree planting here to soothe the buildings. A very bad presentation was noted outside the Eastern Health Board premises. Ballitore Post Office was quite nice, as was Kelly's Pub and the Quaker Museum. Try to continue with a programme of regeneration of houses and buildings throughout the village, i.e. derelict buildings. Nolan's plastic signage should be replaced and it would be nice if the name plate at Butterfields Pub would be painted. Continued efforts are being made under this category.

LANDSCAPING

The area opposite Avonmore could benefit from improved landscaping. The open space at the Athy/Kildare road was improved this year - additional tree planting would be nice here. The approach roads, generally, were very good with grassed areas well maintained. Overall, a very good presentation under this category this year.

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 Ballytore would include identification of species list 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 adjudicators noted trout in the river on the day of adjudication.

LITTER CONTROL

Much litter was noted by the river side park; there is a need for more regular cleaning of this area. The area outside the Eastern Health Board premises was filthy in terms of litter. Litter was also noted outside OConnors. Litter was absolutely terrible on the road leading to the Quaker Museum. The adjudicators were very disappointed with the presentation this year, and considerable work needs to be done in this area for next year.

TIDINESS

Try to clean the Quaker sign at the Quaker Burial Ground. Try also to sweep gravel away from kerbing at houses, for example, on the left hand side on the approach from the Kildare road, as this takes from the overall appearance. Another aspect which takes from the overall appearance is lack of painting. In this regard, try to paint the pole on the Athy sign, and paint, or clean up, the pump area. The rear of the derelict building opposite Butterfield's was very disappointing with gravel, litter and weeds noted. Graffiti was also noted on the telephone kiosk.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

A good presentation was noted by the cottages near the Garda Station which were freshly painted. There were excellent individual efforts noted throughout the town, one example being an effort opposite O'Connor's. Some new residential houses have been noted this year. Overall, residential areas were well presented.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

On the approach from the Main Road, why not consider some feature to try to attract attention, rather than having dirty finger post signs, nettles and long grass. Also, long grass and nettles were noted at the Ballitore sign. Closer in, the hedges had been cut and the areas neat and tidy. Try to improve the "Welcome to Ballytore" sign, which needed to be painted. The grassed areas

were very good. The approach from Athy/Kildare was very neat and tidy - perhaps try clearing the wall on the left hand side. The road to Crookstown Mill was litter free. The approach from Griesemont was very good apart from litter noted closer in. Overall, not a bad presentation here.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The adjudicators, initially, were very impressed with the presentation, but on closer inspection, litter was very disappointing. The adjudicators wanted to increase marks under this category, but could not do so because of the level of litter. Try to work on this for next year. The children, obviously, have an important role to play in this regard.