

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLYMURN**
County : **WEXFORD**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 03-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	34
The Built Environment	40	29	28
Landscaping	40	29	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	17
Litter Control	40	32	31
Tidiness	20	16	14
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	218	208

Ballymurn, Co. Wexford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Your development plan is a very good example of a document which is easily produced and allows a great number of people to access it from the perspective of a guide, the works programme and an understanding goals established by the Committee. The small plan supported by photographs is a very good method of stating future works to be carried out.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The built environment is very pleasant. All buildings very well tended and the very strong statement which the Church presents within the town demonstrates the strong cohesive community participation for both private and public buildings. Of note is the large car park near the pub and shops which could be scaled down visually through the planting of mature trees so as to reinforce the urban enclosure at this point in the town.

LANDSCAPING

The report highlights the philosophy employed by the Committee and this must be commended. The use of indigenous plants and preservation of the roadside apple trees all reflect a great concern for the latent resources associated with the town. There is a very balanced approach between the surrounding countryside and integration of that with the town. The use of simple groups of daises along the roadside presents a soft and sympathetic planting scheme which provides a more permanent image of planting rather than seasonal colour. This should be encouraged and extended.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The report highlights on a very simple and achievable plan which is easily phased. The use of indigenous plants must also be complimented.

LITTER CONTROL

The town is doing well in terms of litter control and obviously has a very strong management programme.

TIDINESS

The placement of the re-cycling bins in a convenient location which is easily accessed but not too visual at present in the town is a super example of how to handle such a facility and demonstrates that the facility must be well known and used by the community. All areas under signs and along road edges were very well maintained and reinforce the desire to ensure a total image of tidiness throughout the town.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

All properties are extraordinarily well tended and demonstrate a

very strong desire for a total integrated approach between all spaces of the town. The use of colour and pleasant plants adds an intimacy to many of these small spaces.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

All approach roads present a strong impression of entering the small town with great pride of its open spaces. The stonework and associated seats create a very friendly roadside atmosphere, while the trace of lime on the apple trees highlight a clear interest in the preservation of landscape history. One looks forward to seeing a continuation of the apple trees as highlighting a theme for entering the town.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The Tidy Towns Committee have produced a very strong image which presents a very cohesive community. One looks forward to the creative proposals addressed in the report and subtle changes which will happen over the next few years.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (7/8/97)

The first impression of the village upon second adjudication was a little disappointing in that weed growth along kerbs at the Credit Union was quite prevalent and roadside verges on the Enniscorthy side of the village were quite overgrown. However the grounds of the church were magnificent and much admired as were roadside verges marking the entrance from the Curraclloe side. One or two roadside boundary walls to residential properties also featured a lot of unattractive weed growth. The entrance to St. Joseph's Terrace residential development was quite beautiful with the colourful flower displays and attractive stone seating. However, do eliminate weed growth along footpaths here. A number of weatherstained gable walls were noted. A short stretch of bank at the water pump in the village centre could be planted with a ground cover plant. (Try a combination of Vinca Minor and variegated ivy or honeysuckle). The entrance to the Community Hall could have been a little cleaner although the recent whitewashing of the wall to the main road was noted. The stone wall at the school looks really well and landscaping here is effective. The overall presentation of the village is good and your developmental plan is both well informed and admirable. We wish you well in its implementation.