

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CASTLEBELLINGHAM-KILSARAN**
County : **LOUTH**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 29-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	35
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	27	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	29	28
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	204	201

CASTLEBELLINGHAM-KILSARAN, COUNTY

LOUTH

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The location of the village on the main Dublin-Belfast Road, with its very heavy traffic and the attendant noise and dust makes the work of the committee all the more commendable. The plans mentioned last year have not been included this time. The map was useful in locating all the main sites and your ongoing work is to be praised. It will be interesting to see what your next 5 year plan will include.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

There is a varied mix of interesting buildings in the village. The Widows Houses, Church of Ireland and impressive Hotel Gate give a nice historical feel. The newer public buildings are also very well kept. The Crowing Cock, Mulhollands, Byrnes and An Sos all looked very well. Reckitts yard and buildings appeared neat and tidy. Mackins Food Store and the sign pole outside would benefit from painting, as would some of the premises along the main street and Annagassan Road. Hopefully the Ace Video Store will not remain boarded up for long.

LANDSCAPING

St. Mary's Church and grounds are maintained to a high standard. The school grounds are very well presented with attractive shrubs and well kept lawn. The picnic area and village green are very neat and tidy, as are the grass verges and colourful flower containers along the roadside. Looking over the bridge just before the Castle Gate gives a wonderful view of the well maintained river banks below. The rose bed on the green outside An Sos and the flower containers at the old mill add some nice colour to the overall appearance. Tree planting at Coopers Cross is a worthwhile project. Retaining the existing trees and hedgerows around the village is also of vital importance.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The wildflower areas at Stabannon Road Junction and behind the picnic seats are a pleasant amenity. Involving local environmental groups in the ongoing school wildlife project would be of benefit in developing other projects. The abundant wildlife in riverbanks and hedgerows offer great scope to develop these natural amenities within the community.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control in such a busy traffic area is always difficult. Some litter was seen along the main street, but in general the arrangements for litter control seem good .

TIDINESS

In general, the village is presented as a neat, well cared for place. As previously noted the high level of traffic is a difficult factor to combat and the suggestion of having no parking areas around the village green would give this pleasant area more prominence. Replacing some of the plastic signage on the buildings with more traditional style signs would also enhance the overall appearance.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

St. Marys Villas, St. Olivers, and Beech Grove are all a credit to the residents in each. The gardens and greens are awash with colour and really add to the appearance of each estate. The tree planting work will enhance each area over time. The greens offer scope for further planting of trees and shrubs. The historical Widows Houses are a most attractive residential area in their paved cul-de-sac. Newer individual houses and gardens also have their part to play in the overall scheme and can contribute much.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The village approach roads are well presented with tidy verges and attractive native trees and hedgerows. The extensive road frontage running through the village is presented to a very high standard and the ongoing hard work of the community is very evident in this. Verges on the approach road from Dundalk may require some extra attention in the growing season.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The overall impression is of a well maintained, attractive place, where a lot of hard work goes into the care and presentation of the total village environment. Being on a main national road is a difficult obstacle to deal with, but the community must be commended on what they have achieved in spite of this.