

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLYBRACK**
County : **DUBLIN**
Category : **E**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 06-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	30
The Built Environment	40	23	22
Landscaping	40	22	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	22
Litter Control	40	20	21
Tidiness	20	11	12
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	20
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	178	175

Ballybrack, Co. Dublin

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your detailed application form outlining the developments in Ballybrack over the past year. Whilst the highlighted areas on the map were helpful, we would appreciate it if you could submit a map which also highlights the roads and road names for next year. It was good to see so much community involvement and your ongoing communications with Dun Laoghaire- Rathdown County Council will hopefully bring about good results. Where local resident groups got involved a substantial improvement has been noted. We would welcome the introduction of the pilot waste management project and it was heartening to see so many new initiatives within this community, eg. a can recycling scheme and Loughlinstown Ecology Park. We look forward to the seeing the results.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The organised effort outside shops is paying off and they looked well on the day of adjudication. The conservation of Killiney Ancient Churchyard is a fantastic community project but it was disappointing to be unable to gain access. The same brickwork in the restoration of the Abbey Lodge was delightful; however we would encourage you to increase the sign posting of this attraction. The major upgrade and improvement of Wyattville Road provides pleasant access to the village. Davitt Park is a nice new development where communal areas are well kept and gardens are nice, we hope it will be maintained. It is unfortunate about the waste areas and houses opposite but it was encouraging to see work being carried out opposite Dale View Park to improve the appearance of that public road into the village. Undeveloped sites are in need of particular attention, for example, Cromlach Fields. Graffiti is still prevalent in some areas around Ballybrack, particularly the signs along Wyattville Road, Station Road, Church Avenue and Loughlinstown Wood Estate. There is also a lack of sign posting around Ballybrack.

LANDSCAPING

The planting of trees along Wyattville Road is welcomed but constant maintenance of the area surrounding it is necessary to ensure it remains presentable. The landscaping surrounding the shopping areas of the Kilbogget Townland Shopping Centre and in Ballybrack Village was nice and sets a good example to other areas. While we noted the efforts of the Environmental Sub Committee of Churchview Road, the presence of rubbish and abandoned shopping trolleys greatly detracts from what otherwise could be a very pleasant communal area. We hope the re-landscaping of this area will alleviate the problem. The open space on the entry to Brakenbush Park/ Watsons Estate was delightful and attractively landscaped.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The Shanganagh River along Commons Road has been developed into a wonderful natural amenity within such a built up environment. It is nice now to be able to enjoy the river view whilst the vegetation and

wildlife can continue unhampered. We would, however, draw your attention to the burnt out car visible opposite Abigail Guest House. The proposed works in conjunction with Conservation Volunteers Ireland for Loughlinstown Wood are exciting, with the planting of native trees and introduction of visitor facilities a welcome addition to this area.

LITTER CONTROL

Although the improvements in litter control at the Plaza Forecourts on either side of Church Road is impressive, it cannot be denied that litter is a huge problem in this area, especially on the housing estates, eg. the entrance to Cromlach Fields, Church Road and Willow Vale. More rubbish bins are needed in order to assist with litter control, for example, Wyattville Road. We welcome the initiatives you are introducing to alleviate this problem, community awareness of this issue is essential for improvement it and we hope your plans are successful. Where bins have been put in place there is a noticeable improvement, such as on Millitary Road.

TIDINESS

Graffiti remains a pervading problem for your area. We welcome the necessary initiatives you are implementing such as the programme by the Conservation Education Trust. Weed growth at the kerbs throughout Ballybrack makes the town look very untidy. Attention is needed especially along main roads, such as Wyattville Road but also within housing estates.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Where there is a residents association in action, improvements have been noted on litter, such as Bayview. Attention must be paid to litter in Willow Vale, Coolevin, Cromlach Fields and Loughlinstown Park where there are few litter bins in evidence. Praise must be given to areas such as Brakenbush Park and Pinewood for their efforts. Davitt Park is a nice new development but would benefit from more greenery and colour. Graffiti is also a problem in certain residential areas, such as Oakton Park and Loughlinstown Park.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

It is good to see the resurfacing and development that has taken place on some of the roads in Ballybrack over the past year. We particularly noted the good standard of the car park around Tesco. Increased signage is necessary to highlight both your wonderful natural amenities and your roads.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

There is a great contrast in the levels of tidiness throughout Ballybrack. Where attention has been given to tidiness this has paid off, but a wider focus is needed for your efforts. All of your long-term plans and efforts are highly commendable, especially given the wide range of projects in which you are involved. However the lack of effort by certain areas detracts from those superb efforts. The results of your long-term projects will undoubtedly improve your position in the competition in coming years. Well done on your work to date.