

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLITORE**
County : **KILDARE**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 03-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	32
The Built Environment	40	25	25
Landscaping	40	26	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	17	19
Tidiness	20	12	11
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	25
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	184	182

Ballitore, County Kildare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for the completed form. There is a good practical size to the size of the committee and in speaking with some of the village people there seems to be very effective persuasion for the upgrading of some of the historical buildings. All of this must be complimented on as the village has some very interesting aspects from a cultural point of view. The drop in marks is reflected by no three to five year development plan being provided as this is a mandatory item. This is a particularly important document for a village such as Ballitore as it can be used for lobbying support and going to further agencies if seeking help for some of the projects that the residents intend to undertake. Of particular note is that it should be able to bring along support from industry such as Avonmore who at present do not seem to be contributing to the overall setting of the village.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

There is good colour presented in the buildings and good signage highlighting places of interest. It is in the way that the information on the town is displayed on the walls of the buildings that makes it a most interesting visit. At present the town neither seems to be a ruin or a completed entity. One looks forward to the opening of the Ledbetter House. The library/museum is a very interesting visit and again another worthy contributor to the setting of the village.

LANDSCAPING

In general this area is quite poor and needs extensive strengthening through investment with trees. There are many areas where trees could be planted and where landscaped spaces could be improved. Avonmore could screen their buildings from the historical setting of the main street of Ballitore and should be lobbied to do so as their buildings do not contribute to the village setting. In addition the grass kerb opposite their entrance should be re-examined for layout so that the turning circles of vehicles are given more room and do not cut up the grass areas. Of particular importance at present is the central space with the derelict buildings beside Butterfields. This is an important structure that contains the courtyard and frames many of the important views. It is understood that this Market house is the next potential project and if this is so, it would be hoped that funds would be diverted to the external works surrounding it so as to connect some other spaces in the village.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The category has not been commented upon in the entry form and as such it is unknown what direction the village takes. This is an important category as it can provide a new dimension to any village seeking a creative level to management. It is understood that the library is very effectively used and has great potential in contributing to this aspect. In general, the entry roads into the village have a very natural appearance and it would be hoped that future decisions would consider this issue when selecting future tree types.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter is a problem in the village and on the day of adjudication there was quite an extensive amount in the central portions of the village. This really should not be a problem and there are very few litter sources in this village. Other villages of the same population have a much higher level of control.

TIDINESS

Dereliction may be a problem however, it is more with the weeds growing around kerbs and in some other areas that enforce a lack of tidiness on some spaces. However, given the recent improvements with the Ledbetter House and the area beside the furniture shop, this category is seen to improve. It is hoped that the courtyard at the rear of the market house would be kept in its character and not be lost to standard tidying up processes.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

These are very colourful and reinforce the character of the village.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The axial view to the Ledbetter House is very important and could be greatly improved with the removal of the poles near the house or perhaps being hidden by potential planting. In general, surfaces to the roads are poor but this is worsened by the extensive amount of litter. At present entry onto the national road is very dangerous with restricted sight lines and something should be done to assist the motorist leaving the village at this junction. On a last note it is understood that proposed new roadway works may happen and these will provide an opportunity for a better entry to the village.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

This village is well worth a visit and it needs to send out a strong message. All the ingredients are here for making this village one of the more interesting visits in Kildare. It is already noted that certain projects have been carried out to enhance the village and it is hoped that the efforts being made in the next set of years will deliver a very interesting village environment. One looks forward to the receipt of the development three to five year plan as this is important for the adjudication process.