

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **BALLYMORE EUSTACE**  
County : **KILDARE**  
Category : **C**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 03-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	34
The Built Environment	40	29	27
Landscaping	40	31	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	20
Litter Control	40	26	28
Tidiness	20	14	12
Residential Areas	30	25	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	8	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>207</b>

## **Ballymore Eustace, County Kildare**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for the entry which was very informative and the support statement for the three to five year plan. It must be recognised that this statement is not necessarily the type of information being sought as all categories must be addressed in the plan so as to aid in the adjudication of each category. It must be seen that this requirement is not only for the adjudicator but for lobbying purposes to the local authority and bringing on board the third party agencies that can help in the development of some of the necessary tasks demanded by Tidy Town Committees. There is a very clear approach expressed, in that the organized approach such as the hanging baskets and very clear presentation of junctions along with the entry to the housing estates, demonstrates a very effective Tidy Towns committee all of whom must be complimented.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The County Council must be asked to finish the kerbing in the square as there are quite a number of unfinished spots. It would also seem noteworthy to have these works ensure that there is accessible design features for disabled users. There is good uniformity throughout this space and many of the streets of the town. The Thatched building is very well cared for as is Country Kitchens which is very presentable. Perhaps the town needs a strong colour plan as this would give more polish to the street environment. The very good plantings which are beside many of the buildings must be complimented. One item that should be looked at is ensuring that the water feature in the centre of the square gets properly finished as rubber is exposed and this could lead to an easy form of vandalism.

### **LANDSCAPING**

There is perhaps an overuse of the cupressus in many gardens and this separates the theme of a rural town within the context of country side. There are very few new gardens and as such many of the gardens have mature plants and all of these contribute to a very settled setting within the town. There is a very strong theme of planting and this aids greatly in extending the sense of village to the limits of the village boundaries. The area beside Country Kitchens is very well presented as mentioned in the past and is representative of a theme that is developing within the village.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The development plan should outline the approach being taken as this category is quite open for interpretation. The town is using a lot of introduced species and perhaps some of this should be re-examined. There are some very effective natural vistas on entering the village such as the hedges and overhanging ash trees on the entry roads. Also of importance is the amount of elders that were in flower. This again establishes a very good theme within the wild life category and the village must be complimented for protecting these features.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

This was generally to a high standard, however, small pieces of litter do collect in the kerbs and detract from the overall commitment. In some cases this is quite extensive and not just limited to a single spot. Given that there are very few sources of litter, it should be an easy issue to improve on.

## **TIDINESS**

The major impact on this category is within the roads context as a village of this size has quite an extensive number of roads. The approaches into the village need consideration as weeds and some litter and gravel all together reflect an untidy appearance, however, the greens were quite tidy as was the square. Perhaps the central feature in the square could be finished to a higher standard.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

All are to a high standard. Assumpta Terrace is very well managed and a great credit to the residents. Hill Crest and Liffey Heights are also very tidy and benefit greatly from the adjacent gardens. Perhaps it would be worth considering the use of native plants to integrate both the gardens and the public spaces

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

Many of the road surfaces need sweeping as bad surfaces detract visually from the entry sequence into the village. The loose gravel is a particular issue that should be dealt with. The Stop sign at the bridge needs the graffiti removed and in many areas the roads need re-weeding.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

This town has some excellent opportunities for doing well in this competition as there is a diversity of spaces, and if carried out to a strategic plan, there are many effective long term gains both for the village and within the competition. The integration of the village with the countryside is perhaps one of the most important issues because of the town's

layout. The general character is one of a cottage town and it is important not to lose that sense of scale and associated charm that cottages often bring to streets. The development of the gardens, path planting, hanging baskets and use of colour on the building facades all aid in this character. Prioritisation of particular hot spots that should be treated immediately would be easily dealt with through a development plan. The committee must be congratulated on the efforts to date.